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Evolution of the UNCW Hazard Mitigation Plan

Kevin Madsen

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Thursday, February 17, 2011

LUNCH

Time of Session: 12:00-1:30pm

Session Title: Evolution of the UNCW Hazard Mitigation Plan

Speaker: Kevin Madsen, Emergency Manager, UNC- Wilmington

Room: 236

Head Count: 56

Note Taker: Maggie Olivier

Notes:

University of North Carolina- Wilmington

Coastal university (August/September peak time for hurricane season)

Hurricanes are top of list

One of the 6 original DRUs, chosen for being a coastal university

Hazard vulnerability assessment is initial phase of emergency planning

Usually hit by category 1 or 2 storms

Strong rains cause floods on campus

Now have siren warning system in place

Elevation on campus= 50 ft above sea level

Approval process takes time. Be patient. Important to include:

Emergency Services

Public Information and Awareness

Prevention

Property protection, natural resource protection and structural projects

2 types of mitigation actions considered

Multi-hazard actions

Hazard-specific actions

Have to implement plan for anything to happen

UNCW is designated as a StormReady Community

We're all impacted by a variety of hazards

Education campaigns not only help in preparing people, it's an act of mitigation in and of itself.

Striving for continuity because continuity leads to mitigation.

Look at timeline across hazards

Duration and impact

Crisis communications (push-active and pull-passive notifications)

Seahawk Warning Siren system

Test service twice a year, in order to teach people what the siren means and how to respond to it.

Questions

Q. What are some mitigation efforts you are doing right now?

A. Earthquake retrofitting

Q. Susan Blake, do you have anything to add?

A. Happy to have left the project in such good hands. Helps to have a good contractor. Helpful to have a buy-in and have a commitment from a large group of stakeholders. Respect the process.

We use a contractor on the front end, but have campus resources to maintain (Kevin).

Q. How do you get the students to respond to the siren tone?

A. Each time means something. We only use it for active shooter, tornado.

Q. How do you let your campus neighbors know what the tones mean?

A. We meet with the neighbors and put up a notice. We use a variety of tools to test it.