

EXTRA! EXTRA

Touro College

In this issue:

Welcome to this issue of EPICS! This issue comes to you packed with information on how the decision to close the school during inclement weather and other situations is made and by whom....tips on what to do to prevent identity theft...and of course don't forget to look at and mark your calendars for Campus Security training days.

As always we would like to hear from you on any ideas you may have for future issues and your thoughts on the newsletter in general. Drop us a line at epics.news@touro.edu. And remember, we are always looking for writers! Enjoy!

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EMP: Featured Article

An interview with a School Closing Committee Member

Emergency managers will long remember the winter of 2013-2014. Cold weather, including long stretches with subzero temperatures, numerous major snow events in the north, and significant snow fall in the south, caused headaches and dangerous conditions. This winter has created challenges that have not been experienced before.

For colleges and universities in New York City, two of the challenges is determining whether or not the situation is safe for students, faculty and staff and whether or not local transportation services will be available. Additionally, colleges and universities are also responsible to complete



a certain number of days in the classroom as mandated by the Department of Higher Education, so closing is not always a viable option. Touro's School Closing Committee (SCC) is responsible for examining the factors that impact the college community during severe weather incidences and making the decision to open or close all or only some locations. This article includes an interview with Alan Schoor, Senior Vice President of Administration, and Chairman of the committee to help explain the SCC process.

Q: Why did you form the School Closing Committee (SCC)?

A: Prior to the establishment of the SCC decisions regarding the closing of sites/schools was being done on an ad hoc basis, where individual deans were making decisions *(continued on next page)*

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EMP Featured Article Continued

(continued from cover page)

with respect to their particular school, not taking into account the impact on other schools and locations. Additionally, individual decision making did not take into account information from the more reliable weather services, as well as on the ground information from our locations.

Q: What part of the Touro community do the members represent?

A: We have representatives from all of the NY schools as well as a geographical representation, since weather conditions often vary by location. For example, since Long Island typically has more severe



weather than other parts of New York City, we have a representative, from the Touro Law School and the Bay Shore campus. These representatives provide on-the-ground information for Long Island.

Q: Can you explain how the process works?

A: Touro's Department of Emergency Preparedness is constantly monitoring both weather and other outside events such as bird flu, mumps, measles, etc. that could potentially disrupt Touro's operations. Once a potential event is identified it is monitored for 24-48 hours prior to the event, at which point the SCC is notified that there will be a conference call. Prior to the conference call Emergency Preparedness collects the most up-to-date information on the impending event.

The SCC conference call is a formal process. Representatives are expected to participate and have designated back-ups in the event they are not available. A roll call is taken to ensure that all programs are represented and the Emergency Manager presents the latest available fore-cast/information about the situation. The committee members are expected to provide their on-ground assessment, information on class scheduling, and important events being held at their locations that could be impacted. The Committee may or may not elect to make a decision about the closing or opening of the school right away depending on how close the impending event is at the time of the meeting. In any case, the SCC will instruct the Emergency Manager to issue an alert to the Touro community advising them of the current status.

Q: Where does the Emergency Manager receive information regarding severe weather incidences?



A: In addition to the regularly available commercial weather information, Touro is a member of the emergency management network within New York City, comprised of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Consortium of Colleges and Universities; each provides updates on upcoming critical events. This allows us access to information not necessarily available to the public regarding emergency situations, as well allowing us to collaborate with other colleges in the City on a strategy for addressing emergency situations.

Q: Does the Emergency Manager gather information for Touro NY only?

A: No. The Department of Emergency Preparedness is responsible for monitoring events around the world that could affect Touro's operations. While the SCC itself is charged with making decisions regarding NYC facilities, Emergency Preparedness (continued on next page)



EMP: Featured Article Continued

(continued from cover page)

Touro College provides relevant information to the leadership provosts of the western campuses to ensure that they have the information they require in order to make the appropriate decisions regarding their locations.

Q: Does the SCC have a "one size fits all" approach when making decisions about the different campuses?

A: No, we take into account local conditions, particularly as it relates to weather, which can be very localized. For example, several of the snowstorms this past winter had relatively minimal impact on the City itself, but dumped substantial snow on Long Island and we elected to close only the Bay Shore and the Touro Law School campuses.

Q: If members of the Touro community have questions or concerns about an SCC decision should they contact the Department of Emergency Preparedness for clarification?

A: The Department of Emergency Preparedness is not responsible for the decisions made by



the SCC. If there are questions or concerns regarding the process or decisions regarding a particular location or school those questions should be directed to the dean of the program and he/she will contact the appropriate SCC representative for clarification.

I would like to thank Mr. Schoor for taking the time to provide this information. The SCC has a difficult job, under unpredictable conditions and I'm sure the Touro community joins me in thanking the members for their valuable service.

S. Yehudah

EMP: "DID YOU KNOW ..."

...that one of the worst blizzards in U.S. history took place on January 27-28, 1922, and is called "The Knickerbocker Storm"? The official snow depth was 28 inches, and the storm did severe damage along the entire Eastern seaboard. The name comes from the Knickerbocker Theater in Washington, D.C, which collapsed because of the severity of the storm, injuring 133 and killing 98 people.



Touro's Emergency Action Plan (EAP) provides procedures for the Touro community to follow in the event of structural damage to buildings. The EAP is available for download on the Emergency Preparedness portal page.

EMP News: - Environmental Health & Safety



Slips, Trips, and Falls

WITH APRIL SHOWERS COME...WET FLOORS AND AN INCREASED CHANCE OF SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS!

Most people recognize that ice and snow covered grounds (continued on next page)



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EMP News: Environmental Health & Safety Continued

will be slick and take precautions to try to avoid slipping on them. However, slips, trips, and falls can happen anywhere, indoors or out. Some common locations for falls are

doorways, ramps, cluttered hallways, uneven or wet surfaces, ladders, and stairs. It is important to always watch out for slip and trip hazards whether it is a wet metal cellar door out on the sidewalk, or a hallway cluttered with papers and boxes at work.

To protect yourself, your family,

and your fellow co-workers, keep in mind the following fall prevention tips:

- Clean up all spills immediately (even small • ones!)
- Stay clear of freshly mopped floors
- Secure electrical and telephone cords out

While the frigid weather of this past winter

days of spring, we must not forget that the

New York region must be prepared to face a

variety of natural hazards, including thunder-

The National Weather Service (NWS) estimates

storms, during the upcoming spring season.

that approximately 100,000 thunderstorms

occur in the United States each year and

that 10% of these storms are catego-

50,000 degrees Fahrenheit caus-

ing the air to rapidly expand. The

action of this expansion creates a

giant pressure wave that breaks

boom. This is what creates the

sound known as THUNDER.

the sound barrier creating a sonic

may be giving way to the warmer and sunnier

of traffic areas

- Remove throw rugs, or use non-skid mats • to keep them from slipping
 - Keep frequently used items in easily reachable areas
 - Wear shoes with good support and slip-resistant soles, especially on wet, rainy days
 - Arrange furniture to provide • open walking pathways
 - Keep drawers and cabinets • closed
 - Use handrails
- Never stand on a chair, table, or other surface with wheels
- Don't text or read while walking
-and, most importantly, always watch where you are going!

- A. Toole, EH&S Specialist

EMP News: Thunderstorm Safety

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH: Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING: Issued when a thunderstorm produces hail 3/4 of an inch or larger in diameter and/or winds which equal or exceed 58 mph..



conditions to develop at a moment's notice and can cause extensive damage if appropriate preparedness measures are not taken.

So what is a thunderstorm exactly?

They are atmospheric phenomena that occur when pockets of moisture come in contact with unstable air masses. As the air masses collide, water molecules within the air strike one another building up a small electrical charge (ionization). When these charged particles (ions) (continued on next page)

rized as "severe". Though thunderstorms tradi-**DID YOU KNOW?** tionally When lightning strikes it superaffect only heats the air around it to nearly

small geographic areas for short periods of time, the volatile nature of thunderstorms allow for hazardous

TOURO EMERGENCY HOTLINE 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK 1-88-TOURO911



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EMP News: Thunderstorm Safety Continued

Touro College (continued from previous page) accumulate past a threshold the energy is released in a giant electrostatic discharge in the form of a bolt of lightning. Though thunderstorms often produce other hazardous conditions including damaging winds, torrential downpours, and on occasion, hail. Lightning is considered the defining characteristic of thunderstorms. Since each lightning bolt is capable of producing over 100 million electrical volts, it comes as no surprise that lightning is one of the leading weather-related causes of death and injury in the United States.

In order to effectively protect ourselves from the damaging effects of thunderstorms the following preparedness measures should be taken prior to their arrival;

Seek out suitable shelter

- •Pay attention to local weather forecasts and bulletins issued by the NWS on local radio stations
- Move out of areas prone to flooding and avoid traveling/driving through flooded areas
 Shutter windows securely and brace outside doors

•Do not use the telephone or any electrical ap-

<u>30/30 RULE</u>

This rule states that if you see lightning, count the seconds before you hear thunder. If it's less than 30 seconds, take cover. Once indoors, wait 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before venturing back out.

pliance connected to the building's electrical wiring

•Do not use showers, sinks, or any object, machine, or device connected to the building's plumbing system. If lightning strikes the

building, the current will likely flow through either the electrical wiring or the water pipes, and you could receive a fatal shock

•Secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture or garbage cans that could blow away and cause damage or injury

•Move away from windows as they may shatter from flying debris

•In extreme conditions, consider shutting off power and appliance gas switches to prevent damage to your appliances

•Make sure your Household Emergency Plan and Emergency Supply Kit are ready to go.

- K. Ledins

INFOSEC: "DID YOU KNOW ..."



...that the youngest known hacker was a 9 year old from Virginia who hacked the school system - Blackboard, specifically. The police investigating found that there was no criminal intent and Blackboard did not consider it a hack because the 9-year-old took the teacher's username and password from the desk of a teacher to sign in and change class enrollment information and other instructor account passwords*.

We at Touro remind users of Blackboard and other school systems to never write their passwords down. And, to periodically change their passwords and use the first letter of each word in a sentence as a passpharase so that they are easy to remember and never written down. [*Note: as reported in Homeland Security News Wire on April 21, 2010.]



INFOSEC: Tips to minimize ID theft

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In past editions of EPICS, I wrote about the steps to take to prevent identify theft and how to respond if you become a victim of identity theft. In this edition, I am writing to you about the need to protect your social security number.

In the United States a Social Security number (SSN) is issued to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and temporary (working) residents. The number is issued for Social Security purposes and, in our daily lives, is used to identify you and allows you to do such things as apply for credit, open bank accounts, apply for employment, etc. If your SSN has been compromised because you were the victim of ID theft, you will learn this during tax season when you file your taxes; especially if you are expecting a refund. Know that the IRS tracks whether or not we have paid any taxes. So, consider a scenario where someone else uses your SSN illegally to apply for a job and then files for a tax refund. Problem? Yes, because when you file, the IRS will see this as you filing twice and reject the second filing. When you file, you will be sent notification from the IRS, via a letter to your home, that you have already filed. What do you do if this happens? Act immediately to resolve the issue by contacting the IRS. The IRS has an Identity Protection Specialized Unit that will handle these complaints - 1-800-908-4490. If it is a fraud, contact your local police and file a police report or complete the IRS ID theft Affidavit (form 14039 - ask the specialized unit representative about this form). Remember to document, document, document and keep copies of all your correspondence.

Some tips to prevent your social security number from being stolen:

- When you are presented with a form to complete and are asked for your SSN, ask whether your SSN is really needed. I find, most times, that updating a form is often overlooked in office settings that have changed procedures and the SSN was simply never removed from a preexisting form - the requestor will almost always tell you to leave it blank. This happens a lot at the Doctor's office.
- Never write a check and include your SSN on it. You just don't know how many hands it passes through while it is being processed.
- Always shred sensitive documents before trashing them, especially if they contain social security numbers.
- Remember to never post a SSN to a social networking site, like "Facebook" or "Linkedin" for any reason.

If you have been compromised, in addition to following the guidance within this write-up and write-ups from previous editions of EPICS, you can go to www.ftc.gov\idtheft where you can find more information on ID theft. - *P. Ciuffo*



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I am very pleased to introduce you to Mr. Aleksander Jarosz, the newest member of Information Security. Aleksander will be assisting the CISO with monitoring, entitlement reviews and a whole lot more! Aleks, as he likes to be called, comes to us from a background that brings broad experience and a diverse perspective to tackling difficult issues. Join me in welcoming him to the Touro community.

INFOSEC: "Patching"

INFOSEC: Newest member

A network is only as strong as its weakest link. As the number of devices on the network grows, so does the network attack surface for cyber criminals. One way to keep that surface small is to ensure that devices that connect to the network are known, and have the



most up to date anti-virus and operating system software in place. Patches that are released by vendors, such as Microsoft, need to be applied on a regular basis.

At Touro, we continually strive to keep that attack surface small by instituting important programs to help with these initiatives. Two such interrelated programs include:

Compliance - Implementation of a Network Access Control (NAC) device that has been and is still being deployed in coordination with the IITS network group, throughout NY. This project has been ongoing and most Touro sites have been integrated. The NAC checks each device to ensure compliance with Touro network policies. This means that each device is required to be known (it must be a device registered to the network), have anti-virus software installed with the latest updates, and have operating system software that is up to date if it wants to be part of Touro's network and receive network services.

Patching -Roll out of patches announced by the operating system vendor on a regular basis. For Touro, this means that we have a "Patch Thursday". Each Thursday a scheduled job, developed by the IITS group, kicks off and pushes operating system updates to all workstations on the Touro network. This initiative is important to remember because part of the patching process includes a workstation restart. If you do not log off at the end of the day on Wednesday evening; you will lose any unsaved work. Always remember to save your work and log off before you leave the office every Wednesday.

NOTE: Microsoft announced that they will no longer support the Windows XP operating system beginning on April 8, 2014. This means that Microsoft will no longer issue security patch updates for problems that are found with Windows XP. The same is true for Windows Office 2003. You will need to upgrade to a newer operating system and Office suite or you will be vulnerable to new attacks. For Touro, this means you will not be able to connect to the Touro network because your device is not in compliance with our security policies.

Remember, while we work to keep the Touro network safe, the practice of updating operating system software and using anti-virus software on your home devices should also be followed to protect you and your family devices from unscrupulous activity. - *P. Ciuffo*



EMP: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DAY

On February 26, 2014 the departments of Campus Security and Emergency Preparedness held a joint event for Emergency Pre-

paredness Day at the Main Campus. EMP presented display

boards depicting different aspects of emergency preparedness, environmental health and safety, and fire safety; and the senior emergency coordinator, Kris Ledins, held a seminar on emergency preparedness in New York City. CampSec presented literature

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on drinking safely, how to protect your property, violence prevention, identity theft, and crime prevention at work, among other topics. Additionally, there were several videos shown on a loop about recognizing violence in the workplace, active shooter and how to travel safely.

Raffles were held by both departments. The winners of the Emergency Preparedness raffle received an emergency survival kit capable of sustaining four people. Campus Security raffle winners received a ceramic coffee/soup mug with matching spoon and sturdy umbrellas, both decorated with the Touro logo.

The event was so successful that we plan on taking it on the road to other New York campuses in September to celebrate National Preparedness Month. Information on the National Preparedness events will go out during the summer, so stay tuned.

Congratulations to all our winners!

Milton Schiffenbauer Jennifer Ferreira David Luk Carolanne Aaron Yoko-Ono McCullock Aida Figueroa Dicky Chacko

- Gina Bardwell Belkis Moquete Jazmine Pemberton Linda Boateng Kishia Burks Stan Ivanov Talisha Vasquez
- Kris Ledins Marie Varela Jasmin Pereira Lorinda Moore Gail Bell-Baptiste Sharon Kahn Anahy Antara



- S. Yehuda



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CAMPSEC : Alcohol Awareness

Alcohol Awareness Month was in March but it is always a good opportunity to provide you with a few tips on staying safe while attending social events and gatherings, not only during March, but all year round:

- If you plan on drinking at an event or gathering, be sure to set up driving arrangements beforehand or arrange for other means of transportation to get you back home.
- Go out with or plan to meet up with at least one other person (buddy system).
- Keep your cell phone fully charged and with you at all times.
- Don't leave your drink or personal property unattended.
- Don't consume any drinks that you have not seen prepared.
- If you find yourself in a situation that is out of hand, locate your friend(s) and leave.
- Don't leave your friend(s) alone.
- Under no circumstances should you get in a car with a person who has been drinking.

Signs a person maybe suffering from Alcohol Poisoning:

- Confusion, Slurring
- Vomiting
- Seizures
- Irregular Breathing
- Pale Skin
- Constant Shivering or Low Body Temperature
- Inability to Walk, Talk
- Unconscious/Inability to Wake

If see any of these signs seek medical assistance immediately.



NOTE: these are not applications that Touro is recommending; these are included only for informational purposes and are not endorsed by Touro in any way. Also, there are many applications available for free and for sale that can assist you when you are in need.

One such free application, "Circle of Six" is available for both iPhone and Android operating systems. This application will allow you to list six (6) individuals that you wish to be notified in the event of an emergency. It will notify them and when possible, provide a map of your GPS location. It will also notify local emergency units. There are many other applications such as "BSafe", "Myforce", "On Watch", and "Panic Guard" that provide similar services but have a monthly nominal fee associated with their use because the services are more detailed.





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CAMPSEC : Campus Security Training

Campus Security continues to sponsor training lectures and events. Listed below were some recent training dates and locations. Please make an effort to attend a lecture by your site. This training will provide you with a brief overview of what you can do in the event of an Active Shooter and what to expect when law enforcement arrives. Additional lectures on various subjects will be added. Please log on to Campus Security's Portal Page for additional information.

27-Mar-14	Bayshore	1700 Union Boulevard	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
10-Apr-14	TouroCom	231 W. 125 th Street	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
10-Apr-14	Touro Pharmacy	231 W. 125 th Street	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
13-May-14	Lander's College for Men	75-31 150th Street	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM



The upcoming trainings will address the different concepts of Lockdown Procedures. There are generally four (4) types of lock downs:

- Shelter in Place Usually means that it is safer to remain where you are at the time of the occurrence (i.e. blizzard conditions which will require you to go outside and the potential for danger is great).
- Internal Threat Is when the danger exists inside/on the campus. Our goal is to keep everyone safe until the threat is eliminated.
- External Threat The danger or threat is outside/off of the campus. Our goal is to prevent the danger or threat from coming into/on our campus (i.e. bank robbery or neighborhood shootout). Usually local law enforcement notifies the campus/school when this is required.
- Full Lockdown A serious threat that requires immediate action.

The training will also identify the reason and most common events that require lockdowns, these are:

- Hostage situationsRiots
 - Police Activity nearby
 - Natural Disasters
 - Active Shooters

We look forward to seeing you at training!





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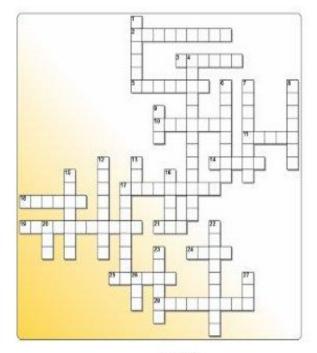
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EPICS FUN PAGE



Across:

2 Going with your gut is the same as using your

3 Campaign of

5 Cyber Security Awareness and Vehicle Safety Month

- 10 If you see something
- 11 _____ Stebbins
- 14 Director Campus Security
- 17 Lock them up securely
- 18 Where you can register for the MNS
- 19 Username or password
- 21 Emergency Evacuation Coordinator
- 24 Campus Security Advisory Committe
- 25 President who made GPS available for civilian use
- 28 Part of the network that accepts
- connections from devices

Down:

1 CISO

4 Instructions on what to do during emergencies

6 Started out as a way for colleges to share information

- 7 An internal internet
- 8 Shield from viruses
- 9 Annual Security Report
- 12 A type of cyber scam
- 13 Campus Security Authority
- 15 Emergency Messaging System
- 16 Indentification
- 17 Bloodshed
- 20 Emergency Action Plan
- 22 Adowngrade of reputation
- 23 Program created to destroy Creeper
- 26 American Red Cross
- 27 Mass Notification System (abbrev.)

The FIRST three people to respond with the correct answers will receive a surprise. Send your responses to epics.news@touro.edu

For answers, send an email to epics.news@touro.edu



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EMP: OEM Watch

New York and the Metropolitan Area

New York City Office of Emergency Management 165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY 11201 Ph: (718) 422-4888 Web Page: www.nyc.gov

California (Solano County)

Solano County Office of Emergency Svcs 530 Clay Street, Fairfield, CA 94533 Ph: (707) 784-1600 Web Page: www.co.solano.ca.us

California (Los Angeles County)

Los Angeles County of Emergency Services Management 1275 N. Eastern Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90063 Ph: (323) 980-2261 Web Page: lacounty.gov



Florida

Miami-Dade Department of Emergency Mgmt 9300 NW 41st Street Miami, FL 33178 Ph: (305) 468-5400 Web Page: www.miamidade.gov Email: oec@miamidade.gov

Nevada

Nevada Office of Emergency Services 10014 North Bloomfield Road Nevada City, NV 95959 (530) 265-7000 Web Page: www.mynevadacounty.com

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