



RESIDENTIAL WELLBEING

STAFF PREPAREDNESS

Use this guide to help you become better prepared to provide guidance to your residents. If you have questions about individual preparedness, contact Virginia Tech Emergency Management.



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF DURING AN EMERGENCY?

Students, even in the residential environment, look to student leaders and RWB managing directors for leadership, anticipating that Residential Wellbeing Staff will know what to do if an emergency occurs.

- Provide leadership if an emergency occurs; lead by example and follow emergency procedures.
- Clearly cover basic emergency preparedness techniques to residents – 10 minutes of pre-planning can save lives. Contact Emergency Management at 540-231-4873 or oem@vt.edu if you need assistance. Visit www.emergency.vt.edu for additional resources.
- Remind employees to update their emergency contact information on Hokie Spa, to sign-up for VT Alerts at www.subscribe.alerts.vt.edu, and download the Hokie Ready app.
- Know how to report any emergency that occurs in your residence hall.



HOW DO I REPORT AN EMERGENCY?

Dial 911 from your cell phone or campus phone when you need Law Enforcement, Fire Department, or Emergency Medical Services. Remain calm – your actions influence others.

- Provide your location, the more exact the better; address, building name, floor, room number.
- Give your full name and the telephone number from which you are calling, in case you are disconnected.
- Describe the nature of the emergency (describe clearly and accurately).
- Remain calm and do not hang up as additional information may be needed. If possible and safe to do so, have someone else meet emergency personnel outside the building.



WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PREPARED FOR DUTY SHIFTS AND ROUNDS?

In addition to your having Hokie Passport, you should also consider:

- A charged cell phone. Make sure your signed up for VT Alerts in advance.
- Be sure you you have key telephone numbers in your cell phone or written down where you can access them should your phone die.



HOW DO I SECURE-IN-PLACE?

When it is necessary to secure-in-place, you will be the safest by placing a locked door or other barricade between you and the associated violence or danger.

- Remain calm.
- If you are outside during a secure-in-place emergency you should see cover in the nearest unlocked building.
- If the buildings in the immediate area, have exterior doors that have been locked, continue to move away from the danger, seek cover, move to another building, or leave campus if it is safe to do so.
- Once inside, find an interior room and lock or barricade the doors.
- To minimize vulnerability, turn off the lights, silence phones, draw blinds, and move away from windows.
- Await further instruction from VT Alerts and emergency personnel.
- Do not leave until an "All Clear" is received.

WHAT IF SOMEONE WANTS TO ENTER A SECURE AREA?

If there is any doubt about the safety of the individuals inside the room or building, the area needs to remain secure. Allowing someone to enter a secure location may endanger you and others. Use good judgment. If there are individuals outside the secured door who wish to get in, several factors should be considered to determine if it is safe:

- Can you see the area outside the door to determine that someone is not lying in wait? Is it a trap?
- If a physical description of the subject was given in the secure-in-place alert, consider similarities such as age, race, clothing description, height, weight, sex, and hair and eye color.

If the decision is made to let a person in, consider the following:

- Have the person leave anything he or she is carrying (a backpack, laptop case, package, etc.) on the ground, outside of the secure area.
- Have the subject lift up his or her shirt, coat, and/or jacket until the waistline is visible and rotate 360 degrees to see if he or she is concealing a weapon.

Remember, always use your best judgement. There are exceptions to all guidance and prescribed directions.



HOW DO I SHELTER-IN-PLACE?

Incidents requiring shelter-in-place are usually weather related emergencies. When it is necessary to shelter-in-place, you will be safest by moving inside to a building space that protects you from the danger. Do not lock doors behind you as others may also need to shelter-in-place.

- Remain calm.
- Immediately seek shelter inside the closest sturdy building. Do not wait until you physically see a tornado or severe weather event to take protective action.
- Resist the temptation to go outside and check the weather conditions yourself.
- Once inside, stay away from windows, glass, and unsecured objects that may fall.
- Seek shelter in interior rooms and corridors.
- Avoid large free standing spaces such as auditoriums and gymnasiums.
- Do not use elevators.
- Await further instruction from VT Alerts and emergency personnel.
- Do not leave until an "All Clear" is received.

WEATHER DEFINITIONS

- Watch: Conditions are favorable for the development of severe weather. Closely monitor the situation in case conditions worsen.
- Warning: Severe weather has been observed. Listen closely to instructions provided by weather radios, emergency officials, and other alert mechanisms. Seek shelter immediately.





HOW DO I EVACUATE THE RESIDENCE HALL?

Evacuation routes are posted in building hallways, usually near stairwells or exits.

- Know two evacuation routes. Look for illuminated EXIT signs to determine primary and secondary exits.
- Remember, all fire alarms are mandatory evacuations. Do not use elevators unless authorized to do so by emergency personnel.
- As you're evacuating, encourage all persons to leave the building – do not wait for those who refuse to leave. Inform emergency personnel of the location of those that are still in the building. Move at least 50 feet away from the building to provide easy access for emergency personnel.



ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Persons with access and functional needs should plan ahead for emergency situations which could involve evacuations. In many emergency situations, lighting can become obscure or obsolete and elevators and telephones may not be operable.

- Consider the following when planning for emergency evacuation:
 - Plan ahead. Critical time can be saved by making evacuation arrangements with supervisors in the building in advance. Emergency personnel will need to know what measures or equipment are required for evacuation and advanced planning may expedite and secure a safe evacuation.
 - For many buildings a stairwell is a safe area in which to wait for emergency personnel if stairs or elevators cannot be accessed. For specific information about areas of rescue, contact the building coordinator for the building you occupy.
 - If the building is evacuated in response to a fire or similar emergency, all personnel are to report to the predesignated assembly point. At the assembly point, supervisors account for personnel and report any that are unaccounted for to the Virginia Tech Police Department and/or the fire department.

If you have questions about special assistance, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 540-231-3788, contact ADA and Accessibility Services at 540-231-2010, or visit oea.vt.edu for more information.

GET IN TOUCH

540-231-4873

oem@vt.edu
www.emergency.vt.edu

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330 Sterrett Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24061

