Bellarmine University Emergency Preparedness

Overview

Bellarmine University is committed to the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Our Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP) outlines how we prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies that may impact our campus.

Our Priorities

In any emergency, our top priorities are to:
- Protect lives
- Preserve property
- Maintain essential services
- Restore normal operations as quickly as possible

Emergency Management Framework

Bellarmine follows the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and uses the Incident Command System (ICS) to coordinate emergency response. This ensures a structured, flexible, and scalable approach to managing incidents of all types and sizes.

Types of Emergencies We Prepare For

We plan for a wide range of potential hazards, including:
- Severe weather (tornadoes, snowstorms)
- Fires and explosions
- Hazardous material incidents
- Active aggressor situations
- Utility failures
- Public health emergencies

Emergency Response Phases

Our emergency management approach includes four key phases:
1. Mitigation – Reducing risks before they happen
2. Preparedness – Training, planning, and exercises
3. Response – Coordinated action during an emergency
4. Recovery – Restoring operations and supporting the community

Communication During Emergencies

We use multiple channels to keep our community informed:
- BU Alerts (text and email notifications)
- Bellarmine.edu emergency updates
- Social media
- Campus digital signage

What You Can Do

- Sign up for BU Alerts
- Know your evacuation routes
- Follow instructions from university officials
- Stay informed during emergencies

Community Support

In the event of a major incident, Bellarmine may assist local authorities by providing shelter or other resources. We are proud to be a partner in regional emergency response efforts.