



**TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

# **EMERGENCY PLAN**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview of Emergency Plan .....	1
Purpose.....	1
Concept of Operations .....	1
Accidents.....	3
Bomb Threats/Suspicious Letters and Packages.....	5
Civil Disturbance or Demonstration .....	7
Earthquakes.....	8
Emergency First Aid.....	10
Fire Drills and Emergency Evacuations .....	11
Gas Leaks.....	13
Hurricane.....	14
Communicable Disease.....	17
Ebola Virus disease (EVD).....	17
Pandemic Influenza.....	18
Power and Water Outages.....	22
Psychological Crises .....	24
Severe Weather .....	25
Workplace Violence.....	28
Methods of Communication .....	31

## OVERVIEW OF EMERGENCY PLAN

### I. Purpose

This plan serves as a guide for all college personnel in the event of an emergency at or near one of the campuses/sites of Trident Technical College, including any situation requiring the closing of any campus/site or the suspension of classes. While no plan can cover every possible situation or emergency, this plan describes basic actions necessary to protect personnel and property and to enhance the capability of college response in coordination with local emergency response agencies. Specifically, this plan outlines emergency management actions and resources required to:

- A. Minimize loss of life and property damage
- B. Care for the health and safety needs of personnel
- C. Maintain law and order and a safe working environment
- D. Restore essential services
- E. Provide for continuity of operations
- F. Provide recovery operations to expedite the return to normal college operations and resume class schedules
- G. Provide timely and accurate information to the public and the media

### II. Concept of Operations

#### A. General

##### 1. Campus/Site Emergencies

- a. College personnel will respond to most campus/site emergencies using college resources. When the college (or one of its campuses/sites) is designated as “closed,” non-emergency employees shall not come to the college (or onto the designated TTC campus/site) unless specifically directed to do so by their supervisor.
- b. Some situations will require emergency response from local government agencies which have the necessary trained personnel and emergency equipment.

##### 2. Off-Campus/Site Emergencies

In some cases, emergencies occurring off campus/site will affect the college and its normal operation.

## II. Concept of Operations (Cont)

### B. Phases of College Emergencies

#### 1. Mitigation/Preparedness Phase

- a. Through training and awareness, the college will take aggressive action to prevent emergencies from occurring.
- b. The college will take all actions necessary to maximize preparation for emergency situations.

#### 2. Response Phase

The college will ensure that there are sufficient resources available to handle routine emergencies on campus and will coordinate with local emergency response agencies for emergencies requiring additional assistance.

#### 3. Recovery Phase

The college will take all necessary actions to facilitate a rapid and thorough recovery from any emergency situation in order that normal college functions can be resumed expeditiously.

### C. Authority, Organization and Responsibilities

#### 1. Authority

The authority for this emergency plan is derived from OSHA Regulations, from the S.C. Code of Laws 1976, as amended, Regulations 58-1 and 58-10, and from Trident Technical College Policy 12-1-2, all of which mandate that emergency preparations and an emergency plan be established.

#### 2. Organization

- a. The college's Emergency Operations Team, comprised of key college administrators, will report to the President and direct the tactical and operational aspects of this plan.
- b. The college's Emergency Operations Group, comprised of key college personnel with specialized areas of expertise, will report as needed to the President and direct implementation of this plan.

## ACCIDENTS

### I. Vehicular

If you are involved in or witness any vehicular accident on campus, the following steps should be taken:

- A. Check the scene to make sure it is safe for you to respond.
- B. Render any immediate first aid that you are qualified to provide. Do not attempt to move injured persons unless a life-threatening condition such as a fire exists.
- C. Notify Public Safety of the accident, providing details about the location, number of vehicles involved, vehicle descriptions, and any injuries that resulted. Remain on the telephone with Public Safety unless instructed otherwise.
- D. Remain at the scene of the accident until a Public Safety officer arrives, and advise any parties to the accident that they also need to remain. If a party to the accident attempts to leave prior to the officer's arrival, do not attempt to stop the person. However, do take note of the appearance of the vehicle and person, and attempt to record the license plate number.
- E. Upon arrival, the responding Public Safety officer shall be responsible for subsequent steps, including coordination with any responding emergency personnel, identification of witnesses, investigation of the accident, and submission of any required motor vehicle collision reports.

### II. Workplace

If you are involved in or witness a workplace accident on campus, the following steps should be taken:

- A. Check the scene to make sure it is safe for you to respond.
- B. Render any immediate first aid that you are qualified to provide. Do not attempt to move injured persons unless a life-threatening condition such as a fire exists.
- C. Notify Public Safety of the accident, providing details about the location, nature of the accident, and any injuries that resulted. Remain on the telephone with Public Safety unless instructed otherwise.
- D. If the cause of the accident still poses a danger to others, notify the officer and provide whatever assistance you are requested to and capable of rendering to reduce or eliminate the danger.

---

## ACCIDENTS (Cont)

- E. If the accident involves injury to a TTC employee, work-study student, or student working in a clinical or off-site location, notify the college's Worker's Compensation coordinator (Kim Greene at 843.574.6463) as soon as feasible. If Public Safety has been notified of the accident and responded, that department shall contact the college's Workers' Compensation coordinator.

If Public Safety has not been notified of the accident, the employee (or the employee's supervisor if the employee is unable to provide notification) shall contact the college's Workers' Compensation coordinator (Kim Greene at 843.574.6463), who will likely need to obtain additional information directly from the injured in order to coordinate the submission of required paperwork.

- F. If the accident involves injury to a TTC student or visitor, the college's Insurance and Risk manager (Carol Belcher at 843.574.6230) must also be notified. Public Safety shall provide this notification in all instances when it has been notified of an accident and responded.
- G. Upon notification, Public Safety will notify the President's Office of a serious accident or injury to a TTC student or visitor.
- H. Upon notification, Public Safety shall document accidents in an incident report. When possible, the cause of the injury will be identified. When appropriate, the college shall then take steps to eliminate any causes of the injury that are within its purview.

## **BOMB THREATS/SUSPICIOUS LETTERS AND PACKAGES**

### **I. Bomb Threats**

Upon receiving a bomb-threat call,

- A. Listen carefully to the caller and background noises. Show interest and try to keep the caller talking so that you can gather as much information as possible.
- B. Note the phone number of the caller if your phone has a display, or identify if the call is being made from on campus (single ring) or off campus (double ring).
- C. Upon completion of the call, immediately notify Public Safety and an officer will respond to your location. Do not discuss the call with others and do not spread panic.
- D. While awaiting the officer's arrival, write down as much information as possible, including your assessment of the caller's age, sex, race, accent, and any background noise. Also write down any information the caller may have provided about the bomb's location, type, time of detonation, and possible motive for planting the bomb. Note when the call was received and the extension number on which it was received.
- E. Faculty and staff having special knowledge, skills, training, or familiarity with the targeted building/area may be asked to assist officers and other officials in identifying items that are out of place. Officers may need to question faculty, staff and students about suspicious activity or persons, and employees should provide any additional relevant information that may help to assess the threat.
- F. If you are instructed to evacuate, do so at once, assisting any disabled persons. If possible, avoid using elevators.
- G. Once outside, move to an area where you will be at least 500 feet from targeted buildings/areas, and where your presence will not interfere with responding emergency personnel. When possible, avoid gathering in parking lots or near utility equipment such as chillers and electrical power lines.
- H. If media representatives are present, refer any questions they have to the college's public information officer.
- I. Emergency response personnel will determine when a building/area is safe to resume normal operations; faculty, staff and students will then be allowed to return.



---

## **BOMB THREATS/SUSPICIOUS LETTERS AND PACKAGES (Cont)**

### II. Suspicious Letters and Packages

Be aware that letters and packages may also pose threats, not only from bombs, but also from biological agents such as ricin. If you receive a letter or a package whose external appearance is somehow suspect—for example, it has a powdery residue or oily stains or discolorations on it, or the postmark city is different from the return address city--follow these steps:

- A. DO NOT OPEN IT.
- B. If possible, isolate the mailing and cover it with an item such as trash can to reduce possible contamination.
- C. Evacuate the immediate area and call Public Safety (843.574.6911), providing information about the location of the item.
- D. Wash your hands with soap and water.
- E. Be prepared to provide Public Safety with the names of others who may have touched the letter or package.
- F. Follow any subsequent directives of Public Safety. For example, it may be necessary to have clothing removed and then packaged by professional responders.

If you become aware only after opening it that the letter or package may pose a threat, follow steps B-F above.

## CIVIL DISTURBANCE OR DEMONSTRATION

Most campus demonstrations, whether they are marches, meetings, picketing or rallies, are peaceful and non-obstructive. However, in the event that they are not, or in the event that disruptive demonstrations in the community spill over to the campus, the procedures outlined below shall be followed.

The statutory authority for these procedures is S.C. Code 16-17-420, which stipulates that it is unlawful for any person to willfully or unnecessarily interfere with or disturb in any way or in any place the students of any school or college in the state. Additionally, this statute indicates that it is unlawful for any person to enter, except on business, any such school or college premises without the permission of the principal or president.

- I. Any college official or personnel who learn of a demonstration or planned demonstration must report it to Public Safety immediately.
- II. Public Safety must report any such demonstrations to the President, who has the right to deny the demonstration to take place on a TTC campus.
- III. Demonstrators who cause disruption or disturb college activities will be informed by Public Safety of the pertinent statute and given official trespass or disturbing school notices. Public Safety shall also advise the demonstrators to disperse by a specified time.
- IV. If the demonstrators do not disperse by the specified time, the Public Safety official in charge will consult with the President or the designated college official and local authorities to determine if intervention is necessary. The safety of all college personnel is most important.
- V. Public Safety may request additional personnel from local or state agencies to maintain peace and crowd control.
- VI. If necessary, demonstrators will be arrested, processed, and detained.
- VII. Public Safety will coordinate activities with local authorities in the event that an off-campus disturbance or demonstration interferes with the safety of college personnel and students en route to and from college campuses.
- VIII. The college's Director of Public Information will be responsible for communicating relevant information about any demonstration to the media and college community.

## EARTHQUAKES

There are two sensory indicators of earthquakes: sound and motion. Both vary widely. Depending on your distance from the center of the quake, you may not notice any sound. Or you may notice sounds that resemble anything from a rifle shot to rumbling thunder. Motion may obviously range from a very minor shake to a catastrophic shifting of the earth.

The vast majority of earthquakes in the Charleston area are very minor and require no emergency procedures; however, more severe earthquakes have occurred in the area and remain potential threats. Should you experience any significant shaking of a building or the earth, the following procedures should be followed.

- I. If you are inside, immediately take cover under a table or desk, or stand in a doorway or other structure that will provide cover from falling objects. In areas where cover is not available, kneel at the base of an interior wall and face the wall with your head down and covered by your arms. Turn your body away from windows and mirrors. Be alert for falling objects and stay away from overhead fixtures, filing cabinets, bookcases and electrical equipment.
- II. If you are outside, try to move to an open area away from buildings, trees, power lines and poles. If you are unable to move to an open area, watch for falling objects, and be aware that the ground may sink and craters may form.
- III. If you are in an automobile, stop your vehicle in the nearest open area. Stay in the vehicle until the shaking stops. Since bridges and overpasses may have been weakened, do not park under them or drive on them.
- IV. After an earthquake, be aware of the possibility of aftershocks. Survey your immediate surroundings to see if there are individuals requiring assistance—for example, the disabled, those requiring first aid, or those trapped under fallen debris. If it is possible and you judge it safe to provide assistance, do so. But do not move injured persons unless they face life-threatening situations such as fires or the imminent collapse of a building. If it is not possible to render assistance or you judge it unsafe to do so, attempt to contact Public Safety and provide information about the location of individual needing assistance. If you are not able to contact Public Safety because of power outages, make a mental note of the people needing assistance and their locations, and then attempt to exit the building.
- V. Open doors carefully. Watch for falling objects and downed electrical lines. Do not use elevators. Do not use matches or lighters as gas lines may have ruptured. Once outside, move to an area away from buildings, signs, trees and utility poles that may pose a threat if they collapse or fall. Immediately contact any Public Safety officer or other emergency personnel and convey to them information about those who may remain in the building.
- VI. Since buildings may have experienced significant structural damage and aftershocks are likely, do not re-enter any buildings unless Public Safety or emergency personnel indicate that you may.

## **EARTHQUAKES (Cont)**

- VII. The college's Emergency Operations Team will assemble as soon as possible after the quake at a site to be determined based on the extent and location of the damage. In cooperation with any external emergency personnel available, the Team shall direct all post-quake operations, including search and rescue, assistance to the injured, shut down of campus utilities, damage assessments, and communications with the media and college personnel.

## EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Each emergency first aid situation is unique; therefore, the steps you should take in response to these situations may vary, as may the order of the steps. What does not vary, however, is that **all injuries and illnesses requiring medical attention must be reported to Public Safety.**

While it is impossible to address every conceivable injury or illness, the following procedures generally apply.

- I. Check the scene to make sure it is safe for you to respond.
- II. Call or instruct someone else to call Public Safety and convey the following information: the nature of the illness or injury; the location of the ill or injured person; a description of the person, including approximate age, race, and sex; a description of the person's medical symptoms or complaints; and, if known, a description of the person's activities prior to the onset of the symptoms or complaints.
- III. Remain or ask someone to remain on the line with the Public Safety dispatcher in case follow-up information is necessary.
- IV. Render any immediate first aid you are qualified to provide. Do not move injured persons unless a life-threatening condition such as a fire exists.
- V. Remain or instruct someone to remain at the scene as long as necessary to assist Public Safety and/or other responding personnel.

## **FIRE DRILLS AND EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS**

To help assure your safety, all college buildings have clearly marked and illuminated emergency exit signs which indicate evacuation routes. In some buildings, these signs remain illuminated at all times; in other buildings, they become illuminated when a fire alarm is activated. The college regularly tests the lighting in these signs to assure that it is adequate day and night. Additionally, buildings have emergency lighting systems which provide illumination for a short period of time sufficient to permit evacuation.

In order to acquaint everyone with the sound of the fire alarm and the exit routes to be followed, Public Safety conducts unannounced fire drills on a regular basis. It is each employee's responsibility to make sure he/she knows the proper evacuation routes. Additionally, faculty members and supervisors assume the role of monitors/coordinators for their students and subordinates during such drills or actual emergencies. Therefore, faculty members/supervisors should:

- I. Inform students/subordinates of the location of and routes to area exits prior to an emergency.
- II. Inform students/subordinates of the location of the nearest fire extinguisher prior to an emergency. If a fire is small, contained, you are trained with the use of a fire extinguisher, and you are not compromising your safety, you may try to extinguish it.
- III. Instruct students to evacuate calmly and quietly when notified by fire alarm activations or by Public Safety. Ensure that priority is given to safety. Take only your essential belongings with you. Assist with evacuating persons with disabilities. (See "Additional Note" at end of section.)
- IV. Ensure that classroom/office doors are closed and overhead lights turned off after everyone has evacuated.
- V. Instruct students/subordinates to walk, not run, during evacuation.
- VI. Advise students/subordinates to use the stairs, not elevators, during evacuation.
- VII. Assemble as a group at least 150 feet away from the building. Do not assemble near fire lanes, hydrants, doors, and streets, where you might impede the access of emergency responders. Instructors/supervisors shall report anyone unaccounted for to Public Safety immediately.
- VIII. Remain as a group and wait further instructions. Public Safety will inform all concerned when the building is safe for re-entry.
- IX. Prohibit smoking during all phases of evacuation.

---

## **FIRE DRILLS AND EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS (Cont)**

- X. If you become trapped in an office or building, try to gain access to a window. If possible, place something at the bottom of the door to reduce smoke from entering the room. Since smoke rises, remain as low to the floor as possible. And, obviously, communicate your location to Public Safety any way you can.

Additional Note: Counseling will obtain information from disabled students regarding their preference for method of evacuation—e.g., with or without wheelchairs during an evacuation and will include that information on the faculty notification form. The instructor will identify a primary and alternate student/employee to assist the disabled person during an emergency. Instructors should designate these primary and alternate students during the first class period; supervisors should designate these employees as staff changes. Additionally, instructors should assign students with disabilities to seats nearest to the door to expedite their evacuation, if this does not interfere with their academic programs.

## **GAS LEAKS**

The following steps should be followed if a gas leak is suspected:

- I. Notify Public Safety immediately if a gas leak is suspected. Provide details about the location and circumstances. Public Safety will respond and will also notify Facilities Management.
- II. Evacuate the area as quickly as possible, moving to an outside location at least 500 feet from the location of the suspected leak.
- III. As you exit, do not turn on/off any light or electrical switches, do not activate the fire alarm, and do not use the elevator. Also, leave the door to the room with the suspected leak open so that the gas will more readily disperse.
- IV. The Public Safety officer on the scene will be responsible for making sure that no one enters the building until permitted. The officer is authorized to request faculty/staff assistance to accomplish this.
- V. Facilities Management will investigate the possible leak and either fix it or call the appropriate electric utility or contractor to repair the leak.
- VI. Facilities Management will communicate to Public Safety personnel when corrective action has been completed and when reentry is safe. Public Safety will then provide access accordingly.
- VII. The Public Information Office will communicate with college personnel and the media as appropriate.



## HURRICANE

Almost each hurricane season (June 1-November 30), Charleston is threatened by a hurricane or tropical storm. Planning and preparation are key to making it through and recovering from a hurricane.

### I. Hurricane Operating Condition Levels

The State has established a system of Operating Condition (OPCON) levels to make maximum use of advance hurricane warnings. These OPCONs increase the State's level of readiness on a scale from 3 to 1 and are activated when required criteria have been met. Depending storm conditions and timing, OPCONs may not progress sequentially from 3 to 1.

#### A. **OPCON THREE** – Normal Daily Operations

Agencies coordinate, plan, train and exercise as warranted. Incidents are monitored by the State Warning Point and local emergency managers.

#### B. **OPCON TWO** –Enhanced Awareness

A disaster or emergency is likely to affect the state. Emergency operations plans are implemented. The State Emergency Operations Center is partially activated if necessary.

#### C. **OPCON ONE** – Full Alert

A disaster or emergency is imminent or occurring. The State Emergency Operations Center is fully activated. All agency personnel are activated or available for activation.

### II. Hurricane Watches and Warnings

A. Hurricane Watch: A hurricane is possible within 48 hours.

B. Hurricane Warning: A hurricane is expected within 36 hours.

### III. Annual Planning and Preparation

All hurricane action plans and the contact numbers for the Emergency Phone Tree will be updated and reviewed by department heads and directors by June 1 of each year. All hurricane supplies and equipment shall be in place and, if appropriate, tested by May 15. Hurricane action plans shall address the following:

A. Initial preparations

B. Protection of property/records

C. Protection of facilities

D. Emergency class/activity scheduling

E. Required supplies and equipment

F. Preparation time requirements

## HURRICANE (Cont)

- G. Preparation for emergency services
- H. Recovery plan
- I. Community assistance impact
- J. Personal assignments

By June 1 of each year, the President shall call a meeting of the Emergency Operations Team and Group to review the preparation requirements and implement the plan for that hurricane season.

### IV. Storm Monitoring and Final Preparations

- A. At the hurricane threat level, Public Safety will monitor National Weather Service (NWS) and Emergency Preparedness Department (EPD) information and notify the President of changes in alert/threat status as dictated by storm movements.
- B. The President may convene the Emergency Operations Team and Group to outline preparations and develop a schedule for decisions on suspending classes and other college functions. The college's public information officer will communicate any such decisions to college personnel and the media.
- C. At the hurricane watch level, all preparations should be finalized.
- D. At the hurricane warning level, all preparations should be completed, non-emergency personnel should be released, and only emergency personnel should be on campus.

### V. During the Hurricane

Personnel assigned to work should remain inside and avoid windows and flying debris. They should be prepared for loss of electricity, telephones, and possibly radio communications. Public Safety officers will continue patrol and response operations during the storm as long as their safety is not in jeopardy.

### VI. Recovery Period

Once hurricane-force winds subside, the recovery period begins, and the following actions will be taken.

- A. Public Safety officers will resume campus patrols to survey damage and prevent looting.
- B. A primary and secondary recovery center (Building #920) designated prior to the storm will serve as the central gathering point for recovery personnel. Recovery assignments, as well as supplies and equipment, will be staged at this area to facilitate recovery services. (Personnel are assigned to recovery operations as indicated in their department's plan.)

---

## HURRICANE (Cont)

- C. The President will convene the Emergency Operations Team and Group and implement the recovery action plans. These groups will address the impact of the storm on the college, develop strategies to meet the needs of the college recovery, and insure that all resources are being focused on restoring normal operations as soon as possible. Periodic briefings will be held as necessary and communicated to college personnel and the media as appropriate. Decisions will be made regarding outside assistance needed to complete the recovery process.
- D. Designated areas will be set aside for first aid, food, and other essential services.
- E. Facilities Management and Public Safety teams will be deployed to assess damage and report estimates to the President.
- F. In the event that college facilities are used for community support functions such as staging areas for supplies, equipment and personnel, special security and service arrangements outlined in the initial plan will be provided. All personnel will be assigned an identification badge and will be required to check in and out for accountability.
- G. Special issues involved in recovery operations must be addressed. For example, fuel, spare tires, and supplies for vehicles must be arranged in advance. Personal safety is of foremost concern.
- H. The Director of Facilities Management will develop a contingency plan to coordinate contracts for facility repairs and debris removal.
- I. In the past, the Berkeley Campus has served as a staging area for utility workers. In the event of another hurricane, TTC's campuses may again be used in this way.

## **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE**

### **Communicable Disease Emergency**

Communicable disease in itself can present many risks and hazards to the college community, creating a need for an emergency response. The college's Pandemic Influenza Continuity of Operations Plan (TTC PI-COOP) will serve as the primary plan to provide direction in the college's response to any communicable disease that can impact college operations. All college Divisions must review and update their TTC PI-COOP at least annually.

### **EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD)**

Ebola Virus Disease, formally known as Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever, is a severe viral illness that is often fatal in humans. Two simultaneous outbreaks of Ebola occurred in 1976 in Nzara, Sudan and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Ebola virus was named after the Ebola River where the second outbreak occurred in 1976. Ebola is transmitted into the human population through close contact with the blood, secretions, and other bodily fluids of infected animals. Once it gets in the human population, it is spread human-to-human from direct contact with blood, secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of infected humans. In addition, it can spread with indirect contact with environments contaminated with the same fluids. EVD symptoms are characterized by the sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throat. This is followed by vomiting, diarrhea, rash, impaired kidney and liver function, and external and internal bleeding. No specific treatment or vaccines are available for clinical use. Since 1976, Ebola outbreaks have originated in African countries. Health care workers and relatives/friends of a person infected with Ebola are at highest risk of exposure to the disease.

### **Travel Restrictions for Students and Staff**

Trident Technical College employees and students will not travel for college related activities to areas where the Centers for Disease Control has issued an outbreak notice, travel health precaution, or travel health warning. Students, faculty, and staff are also encouraged to avoid non-college related travel to these areas. If an outbreak occurs where employees and/or students are traveling for college related activities, those employees and/or students must leave the area immediately. The Centers for Disease Control provides up-to-date travel notices and restrictions at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.

### **Ebola Clinical Screening for Traveling Staff and Students**

College employees and students arriving within 21 days from travel to a country where EVD is occurring must be screened by their health care provider or local public health department before returning to campus and provide documentation of such screening to the Human Resources Director.

## PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

Pandemic influenza is a global disease outbreak. Three pandemics have occurred in 1918, 1957, and 1968 with the most deadly occurring in 1918 killing approximately 50 million people worldwide. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population, begins to cause serious illness, and then spreads easily person-to-person worldwide.

In the event of pandemic influenza, The college will play a key role in protecting students' and employees' health and safety as well as limiting the negative impact to the academic mission and the business infrastructure. The college's strategies that delay or reduce the impact of a pandemic (also called non-pharmaceutical interventions) may help reduce the spread of disease until a vaccine is available.

### I. World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Influenza Phases

The State has adopted the World Health Organization's structure for monitoring Pandemic Influenza. The structure is divided into three distinct periods (Inter-pandemic, Pandemic Alert, and Pandemic) and 6 phases.

#### A. Inter-pandemic period

1. Phase 1: No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk of human infection or disease is considered to be low.
2. Phase 2: No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses a substantial risk of human disease.

#### B. Pandemic alert period

1. Phase 3: Human infection(s) with a new subtype but no human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact.
2. Phase 4: Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localized, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans.
3. Phase 5: Larger cluster(s) but human-to-human spread still localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans but may not yet be fully transmissible (substantial pandemic risk).

#### C. Pandemic period

Phase 6: Pandemic: increased and sustained transmission in general population.

## PANDEMIC INFLUENZA (Cont)

### II. Pandemic Severity Index

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a Pandemic Severity Index (PSI) (Table 1) that uses hurricane categories as a model to help the public gauge the severity of a pandemic. The PSI is divided into five categories with 1 being the least severe and 5 being the most severe and is based on the total U.S. population.

The CDC has also developed a mitigation strategy table (Table 2) for implementation of interventions to reduce transmission of illness in the community.

### III. Planning and Preparation

All pandemic influenza action plans and the contact numbers for the Emergency Phone Tree will be updated and reviewed by department heads and directors by June 1 of each year. All pandemic influenza supplies and equipment shall be in place and, if appropriate, tested by May 15. Pandemic action plans shall address the following:

- A. Initial preparations
- B. Business continuity plan
- C. Academic continuity plan
- D. Student Services continuity plan.
- E. Infection control plan.
- F. Communications plan.
- G. Preparation for emergency services
- H. Recovery plan
- I. Community assistance impact
- J. Personal assignments

### IV. Pandemic Influenza Monitoring and Final Preparations

- A. At pandemic influenza phase 3, Public Safety Department Environmental Health and Safety Manager will monitor the U.S. Government Pandemic Influenza Information website ([flu.gov](http://flu.gov)) and the Office of Public Health Preparedness of the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and notify the President of changes in alert/threat status as dictated by regional pandemic influenza forecasts.
- B. The President may convene the Emergency Operations Group to outline preparations and develop a schedule for decisions on modifying college functions. The college's public information officer will communicate any such decisions to college personnel and the media.
- C. At the pandemic influenza phase 5, all preparations should be finalized and completed.
- D. Business, academic, and student services continuity plans should be implemented and personnel assignments made accordingly.

## PANDEMIC INFLUENZA (Cont)

### V. During the Pandemic

- A. Response actions of essential personnel concerning personnel assignments, course delivery, student support infrastructure, business activities, communications, and all other college functions will be made using Tables 1 and 2 as a guide in implementing departmental business continuity plans.
- B. Public Safety or other college designee is to monitor the implementation and enforcement the SC Emergency Health Powers Act.

### VI. Recovery period

Once DHEC has declared pandemic influenza is no longer a threat in the local area, the recovery period begins, and the following actions will be taken.

- A. The President will convene the Emergency Operations Group and implement the recovery action plans. The group will address the impact of the pandemic on the college, develop strategies to meet the needs of the college recovery, and insure that all resources are being focused on restoring normal operations as soon as possible. Periodic briefings will be held as necessary and communicated to college personnel and the media as appropriate. Decisions will be made regarding outside assistance needed to complete the recovery process.
- B. In the event that college facilities are used for community support functions such as health care surge capacity, staging areas for supplies, equipment and personnel, special security and service arrangements outlined in the initial plan will be provided. All personnel will be assigned an identification badge and will be required to check in and out for accountability.
- C. Special issues involved in recovery operations must be addressed. Personal safety is of foremost concern.

**PANDEMIC INFLUENZA (Cont)**

Table 1. Pandemic Severity Index

Case Fatality Ratio		Projected Number of Deaths* US Population, 2006
≥2.0%	<b>Category 5</b>	≥1,800,000
1.0%–<2.0%	<b>Category 4</b>	900,000–<1,800,000
0.5%–<1.0%	<b>Category 3</b>	450,000–<900,000
0.1%–<0.5%	<b>Category 2</b>	90,000–<450,000
<0.1%	<b>Category 1</b>	<90,000

\*Assumes 30% Illness and Unmitigated Pandemic Without Interventions

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a Pandemic Severity Index (PSI) (Table 1) that uses hurricane categories as a model to help the public gauge the severity of a pandemic. The PSI is divided into five categories with 1 being the least severe and 5 being the most severe and is based on the total U.S. population.

The CDC has also developed a mitigation strategy (Table 2) for implementation of interventions to reduce transmission of illness in the community.

Table 2. Summary of Mitigation Strategies by Pandemic Severity Index

Interventions By Setting	Pandemic Severity Index 1	Pandemic Severity Index 2 and 3	Pandemic Severity Index 4 and 5
<b>Voluntary Isolation: Home</b> Those who are ill (children and adults) and do not require hospitalization should be cared for at home (7–10 days; infectious period). Combine with antiviral treatment as available and indicated.	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended
<b>Voluntary Quarantine: Home</b> Household members of the ill should stay at home (7 days from onset of ill person’s symptoms; incubation period). Combine with antiviral prophylaxis if effective, feasible, and quantities are sufficient.	Generally not recommended	Consider	Recommended
<b>Child Social Distancing</b> <b>School:</b> Dismiss students from schools (public and private, including colleges and universities); cease school-based activities; close childcare programs. <b>Community:</b> Limit social contact and community mixing of children and teens.	Generally not Recommended	Consider 4 weeks	Recommended 12 weeks
<b>Adult Social Distancing</b> <b>Workplace:</b> Decrease number of social contacts (e.g., teleconferences instead of face-to-face meetings). Adapt workplace schedules and practices (e.g., telecommute, stagger shifts). <b>Community:</b> Modify, postpone, or cancel public selected gatherings (e.g., indoor stadium events, theater performances). Increase distance to 6 feet between people in public places (e.g., public transit, workplace).	Generally not Recommended	Consider	Recommended
	Generally not Recommended	Consider	Recommended
	Generally not Recommended	Consider	Recommended
	Generally not Recommended	Consider	Recommended



## POWER AND WATER OUTAGES

Procedures for responding to power and water outages are divided into two sections: Individual Response and Institutional Response:

### I. Individual Response

#### A. Call Public Safety to report any room, building, or campus power or water outage.

Note: College phones are equipped with an emergency power source to provide backup communications for about 15 minutes. If the college telephones fail, use cell phones or pay phones to report outage to Public Safety at 843.574.9255.

#### B. While we do want you to call Public Safety to report an outage, please do not call Public Safety to ask how the power or water outage occurred or when it will be restored. Keep telephone lines to Public Safety clear for emergency calls and other needs related to outages.

For extended outages, information about the projected duration of the outage and any other pertinent information will be available on the college website, [www.tridenttech.edu](http://www.tridenttech.edu), social media accounts, and on the college's external toll-free Infoline 877.869.7736.

#### C. For power outages:

1. If you are on the first floor and have sufficient daylight to continue working safely, you should do so. If you do not have sufficient daylight to continue working safely, or if you are instructed to do so by Public Safety, move to an exit with natural light or to an outside location, weather permitting.
2. If you are on the second or third floor when the outage occurs, take the stairs, not the elevator, and move to the first floor near an exit with natural light or to an outside location, weather permitting.
3. If you are in a shop or lab, turn off any gas burners or equipment which, if unattended when power is suddenly restored, might pose a danger.
4. As you leave your work site, take your essential personal possessions and lock your office or room door.
5. Assist anyone requiring help, and do not use elevators. If you are in an elevator during a power outage, call Public Safety by using the telephone inside the elevator. Remain calm, and Public Safety or Facilities Management will respond to your location and provide assistance. If you are aware of others trapped in an elevator, also contact Public Safety immediately.
6. Emergency lighting should provide about 15 minutes of light for you to move safely to another location. Emergency lighting is provided by battery backup (not generators) and will generally provide only enough illumination to exit the immediate area. If the lighting is not sufficient, phone Public Safety and wait for an escort.

## POWER AND WATER OUTAGES (Cont)

7. If you move to an outside location, assemble with your co-workers in one area so that supervisors can account for everyone. Instructors should follow the same procedure with their classes: assemble all students from a given class in one area in order to account for everyone. If any employee or student is not accounted for, notify Public Safety.
8. Remain in the evacuation area until Public Safety, or a designee, indicates that you may return to your work site; or you may visit the college's website, [www.tridenttech.edu](http://www.tridenttech.edu), social media accounts, or call the college's external toll-free Infoline 877.869.7736 to learn the college's decision.

### II. Institutional Response

- A. Once Public Safety is alerted to a power or water outage, the department will in turn notify Facilities Management, the President's Office and Education.
- B. Public Safety and Facilities Management personnel shall survey the campus to determine the extent of the outage and, if possible, to identify the source of the failure. Note that outages may encompass an entire campus and surrounding community, or locally affect only portions of a building.
- C. Facilities Management shall notify the President's Office, Public Safety and Education of the results of its survey of the outage and, if possible, provide an estimate of the time required to restore services.
- D. Facilities Management will repair any outages that can be identified, and that it has the equipment, expertise and authority to repair in a timely manner.
- E. If the source of the outage cannot be identified, or if repairing the outage is beyond the scope or authority of the college to repair in a timely way, Facilities Management shall notify the utility company or the appropriate contractor.
- F. Facilities Management shall serve as the college's liaison to the utility company or the appropriate contractor. As the utility company or the appropriate contractor make repairs, Facilities Management shall keep both the President's Office and Public Safety apprised of repairs as they progress, including any revised estimates of the duration of the outage.
- G. Except in emergencies or situations requiring evacuation, only the President or his/her designee shall have the authority to cancel classes or adjust the times at which they end or resume. The Public Information Office will communicate relevant decisions to the college and the media.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL CRISES

A psychological crisis might manifest itself on campus in a number of ways, including, among other possibilities, threats against others, threats against oneself, emotional breakdowns, and alcohol or drug abuse. If you witness a psychological crisis, the most important thing to remember is that the college has on-staff expertise, as well as access to additional community resources, to help resolve a crisis situation. Therefore, your primary responsibility is not to attempt to serve as a crisis counselor; rather, it is simply to notify the proper authorities so that appropriate professionals can address the situation as quickly as possible.

The essential steps for dealing with a psychological crisis on campus shall include the following:

- I. Notify Public Safety at the onset of the problem, providing details about location, individuals involved, and a description of the behavior being manifested. If possible, try to isolate the person in crisis away from others.
- II. Public Safety shall respond to the scene immediately. Depending upon the nature of the behavior manifested, Public Safety may also summon college counselors to the scene. If additional resources are required, Public Safety may request assistance from Mobile Crisis.
- III. The responding Public Safety officer, in consultation with college counselors and other college personnel, shall be responsible for directing subsequent actions taken to defuse or resolve the situation.
- IV. Resolving the situation may at times require that the individual in crisis be taken into protective custody. Responding Public Safety officers shall determine this after consultation with college counselors and/or Mobile Crisis, or as situations warrant.
- V. The college will offer post-trauma counseling to employees affected by a psychological crisis. In addition, employees may be directed to the Employees Assistance Program for follow-up counseling.
- VI. All media contact pertaining to a psychological crisis on campus shall be the responsibility of the Director of Public Information.

## SEVERE WEATHER

### I. Severe Thunderstorms

- A. The National Weather Service issues a severe thunderstorm “watch” whenever conditions are favorable for the formation of such storms; it issues a “warning” when such storms have formed and may pose an imminent threat. Public Safety shall monitor both “watch” and “warning” alerts.
- B. If a thunderstorm is believed to pose a danger to TTC personnel/facilities, Public Safety shall activate the Emergency Communications Tree. Additionally, Public Safety officers in the field shall alert anyone who is outside.
- C. If instructed to do so by Public Safety, or if weather conditions dictate, individuals who are inside should be prepared to move quickly to safe areas within their buildings—to areas such as hallways and enclosed classrooms, away from windows. Individuals who are outside should immediately seek shelter in the safest nearby building or under structures that will provide safety, avoiding trees or structures that may collapse or attract lightning.
- D. Any injuries or damage resulting from the storm should be reported to Public Safety immediately.

### II. Tornadoes

- A. The protocol for tornado “watches” and “warnings” shall be generally the same as that for severe thunderstorms. However, personnel need to be aware that warning periods may be shorter and, obviously, that damage may be more severe.
- B. If a tornado warning has been issued and you are **inside**,
  - 1. Stay inside.
  - 2. Stay away from outside walls, windows, mirrors, glass, overhead fixtures, and unsecured objects such as filing cabinets and bookcases.
  - 3. If possible, move to an interior corridor, room or office without windows and crouch low to the ground with your hands covering the back of your head and neck.
  - 4. Do not use elevators.
  - 5. Assist persons with disabilities to the safest area on the same floor.
  - 6. Wait out the storm and expect the power to go off. Be alert to downed power lines and unstable structure.
  - 7. Render aid to the injured and notify Public Safety immediately of injuries and damage.

## SEVERE WEATHER (Cont)

- C. If a tornado warning has been issued and you are **outside**,
  - 1. Look for a nearby safe structure in which to seek shelter.
  - 2. If you are in your car, get out of it; never try to outrun a tornado.
  - 3. If there is no shelter, lie down flat in a low area such as ditch away from trees, power lines and poles, and cover the back of your head and neck with your hands.
  - 4. Wait out the storm and expect the power to go off. Be alert to downed power lines and unstable structures.
  - 5. Render aid to the injured and notify Public Safety immediately of injuries and damage.

### III. Winter Storms

- A. Public Safety will monitor weather and road conditions and notify the President's Office of their status.
- B. Only the President or his/her designee shall have the authority to cancel classes or adjust the times at which they end or resume.
- C. If a decision is made to close the college early, open late, or cancel classes, Public Information shall inform the local media. The college emergency phone lines and the web site will provide information regarding closure or delays. Personnel should not call Public Safety to obtain this information.

### IV. Floods

- A. Flooding on or near campus can result from hurricanes, major or multiple rainstorms, water main breaks, plumbing problems, or roof leaks. In the case of imminent, weather-related flooding, Public Safety shall monitor both "watch" and "warning" alerts.
- B. If flooding, either on or off campus, is believed to pose a danger to TTC personnel/facilities, or interrupt academic process, Public Safety shall activate the Emergency Communications Tree.
- C. If instructed to do so by Public Safety, individuals who are inside should quickly move to safe areas within their buildings, or evacuate buildings as instructed by Public Safety. If it is safe to do so, secure vital equipment, records, chemicals, laboratory experiments, and electrical equipment prior to evacuation. Assist persons with disabilities.
- D. Once evacuated, avoid areas susceptible to flooding and seek shelter as necessary. Prohibit smoking during all phases of evacuation.

**SEVERE WEATHER (Cont)**

- E. Remain as a group and wait further instructions. Public Safety will inform all concerned when the building is safe for re-entry.
- F. If assisting in cleanup, report any oil, chemical or hazardous materials suspected of mixing with flood waters to Public Safety immediately. Do not dump flood water down storm drains.
- G. If instructed to evacuate campus due to outside flooding, depart immediately to avoid being marooned. Evacuation is much simpler and safer before flood waters become too deep.
- H. If you are in a car and it stalls, abandon it immediately and proceed to higher ground. Avoid driving or walking through flooded areas or swiftly moving water.

## WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

### I. Definition

Workplace violence is a term that has generally been used to describe threatening behavior, acts of violence, or property damage perpetrated by employees. However, the term is not limited to threats or acts committed by employees. It may properly describe threats or acts committed by a host of others when those threats or acts occur on campus or off-campus at college-sponsored events. Those others include, but are not necessarily limited to, students; vendors; visitors; spouses/friends of students, staff, and faculty; and criminals. Also included in this definition are actual or implied verbal and non-verbal threats, harassment, intimidation, and disruptive behavior that may lead to physical harm or property damage.

### II. Responding to Non-Threatening Disruptive Behavior

While responding to non-threatening behavior may appear to be outside the scope of this emergency plan, it is actually not, since dealing properly with non-threatening behavior may prevent that behavior from escalating to threatening or violent behavior. The following steps should be taken in response to non-threatening disruptive behavior:

- A. Attempt to defuse the situation by responding quietly and calmly.
- B. Avoid taking the individual's behavior personally.
- C. Demonstrate concern by listening closely and asking questions.
- D. Communicate clearly and summarize what you heard the individual say.
- E. Focus on the areas that you and the individual agree upon and try to resolve the individual's concern.
- F. Notify others (supervisors, Employee Relations, Public Safety) as appropriate, if only to document the incident.

If the disruptive behavior continues, assess whether or not the individual appears to be dangerous. If you believe that the individual is upset but not dangerous, set limits and seek assistance from others as necessary. Examples of setting limits include instructing the individual to lower his/her voice; advising patience so you may help; warning that disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may result in punitive action; and asking the individual to leave your office/area. If the individual refuses to leave, tell him/her that you will notify Public Safety.

## WORKPLACE VIOLENCE (Cont)

### III. Responding to Threatening Behavior

- A. Follow the guidelines in Section II above.
- B. Remain in a public area and avoid isolation.
- C. Do not touch or attempt to remove the individual from the area.
- D. Alert others for assistance by using a prearranged distress signal or device. In turn, they should notify Public Safety immediately of as many details as possible of the on-going incident.
- E. Avoid mentioning discipline or calling Public Safety if you believe the individual will respond violently.
- F. Find a way to excuse yourself from the area and get help. For example, you might say, "I need to go check your files."

### IV. Responding to Emergencies: Active Shooter and Other Violent Incidents

Shootings and other violent acts are unpredictable, and your immediate response depends on the situation you face. The following guidelines are based on the best practices established by law enforcement experts.

- A. If it is possible to do so safely, exit the building immediately when you become aware of an incident, moving away from the immediate path of danger, and take the following steps:
  - 1. Notify anyone you may encounter to exit the building immediately.
  - 2. Evacuate to a safe area away from danger and take protective cover. Stay there until assistance arrives.
  - 3. Call Public Safety at 843.574.6911 and provide the dispatcher with the following information:
    - a. Your name
    - b. Location of the incident (be as specific as possible)
    - c. Number of shooters/assailants, if known
    - d. Identification or description of shooter(s)/assailant(s) (race, gender, clothing description, physical features, type of weapon, etc.)
    - e. Your exact location
    - f. Injuries to anyone, if known



---

## WORKPLACE VIOLENCE (Cont)

- B. If you are directly involved in an incident and exiting the building is not possible, take the following actions:
1. Go to the nearest room or office.
  2. Close and lock the door. Barricade door if possible.
  3. Turn off lights, radios and computer monitors.
  4. Close blinds and block windows.
  5. Seek protective cover (behind concrete walls, filing cabinets, thick desks, etc.), away from windows and doors.
  6. Keep quiet and act as if no one is in the room. Silence cell phones.
  7. Do not answer the door.
  8. Notify Public Safety if it is safe to do so, providing the dispatcher with the following information:
    - a. Your name
    - b. Your location
    - c. Number of shooters/assailants, if known
    - d. Identification or description of shooter(s)/assailant(s) (race, gender, clothing description, physical features, type of weapon, etc.)
    - e. Injuries to anyone, if known
  9. If you are unable to call Public Safety and you have a silent alarm in your area, activate the alarm.
  10. Wait for Public Safety or local police to assist you out of the building.

Local law enforcement agencies are trained and equipped to respond to an emergency incident of this nature. During the initial phase of the incident, Public Safety will respond and evaluate the situation to determine the best course of action for safety of the TTC community. Once the local police respond to campus, they will be responsible for all tactical operations.

## METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

Trident Technical College's Emergency Alert System (EAS) is used to communicate vital information to academic credit students and employees as quickly as possible before, during and after a campus emergency.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) includes the following notification components:

1. **EAS Mobile:** Text and/or voice messages sent to mobile devices/cell phones. Voice messages can also be sent to designated landline telephones. (Students/employees must opt in to receive messages. See directions below.)
2. **EAS Email:** Alerts sent to email accounts. (Students/employees are automatically registered to receive EAS email at their TTC email accounts. Students/employees must opt in to have messages sent to a personal email account.)
3. **EAS Web:** Alerts posted on TTC's website (<http://www.tridenttech.edu>), student portal page (<http://my.tridenttech.edu>), and Facebook and Twitter pages.
4. **EAS InfoLine:** Recorded message alerts accessed by calling 843.574.6262, ext. 9091 (students) or 9092 (employees). A toll-free InfoLine, 877.869.7736, is activated when conditions warrant.
5. **EAS Media:** Alerts sent to local media outlets (radio, television, newspaper).

### Important Emergency Alert Registration Information

You must register with the TTC Emergency Alert System to receive timely notification of college emergencies. The quickest notification method is a text message, so you are strongly encouraged to provide a number for a text (SMS) capable device.

- Students: Log in to the student portal (<http://my.tridenttech.edu>). Click "TTC EAS" under TTC Bookmarks. Employees: Log in to the faculty/staff portal (<http://my.tridenttech.edu>). Click "TTC Emergency Alert System (EAS)" under TTC Applications.
- Enter your contact information, click the box next to the acknowledgement statement, and click Submit at the bottom of the page.

There is no charge to subscribe to the Emergency Alert System, but your cell phone provider may charge a fee for delivery of text messages based on your calling plan. This is an optional service that will only be used to advise you of potential, developing, or existing critical emergencies.