Preparedness Assessment Team

The Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) has taken a proactive approach towards emergency preparedness. We have recognized the importance of planning and having the proper response tools in place to act quickly and effectively on behalf of our college communities.

In an effort to further enhance our safety and security capabilities, the District Preparedness Assessment Team (PAT) was created in Fall 2007. The team consists of 26 members representing all constituency groups and various job classifications including faculty, nurses, operations personnel, police officers, public information officers, information technology, facilities management personnel, and administrators. The mission of the PAT is to provide continuous oversight of the District's state of emergency preparedness by assessing current capabilities and projecting future needs. The goal is to ensure that we are prepared in the event of a critical incident.

The PAT meets several times per year and has established the following sub-committees:

1. Communications
2. Facilities
3. Training
4. Building Coordinator Program

Since its inception, PAT projects and accomplishments include:

1. Approximately 300 District members have been trained in national and state emergency standards (NIMS/SEMS).
2. Over 50 C-CERT members have been trained.
3. An evacuation and safety plan (A.C.E.S.) has been developed.
4. Swing-type door hardware will be replaced with flush-mount door hardware.
5. A master plan for installation of video cameras to be installed throughout the District has been developed.
6. An emergency notification system (W.A.R.N.) has been selected for implementation commencing in Fall 2009.
7. Emergency drills are conducted each semester and have occurred on each campus and the district office.

We encourage everyone to become involved in emergency preparation. We all have a role to play at work, at home, and in our communities. The LRCCD's efforts have gained significant attention and our level of preparedness ranks high amongst other college districts.

Facilities Sub-Committee

In the wake of several high profile events on campuses nationwide, the importance of facility security is at the forefront. The Facilities Sub-Committee assessed several areas including the availability/accessibility of facility maps and blueprints with key locators for emergency shut-offs (i.e. gas, electrical), emergency phones and lighting, access control, and security surveillance cameras. Several key projects are in various phases of implementation:

1. Security cameras will be installed throughout the District in a multi-phase process. The first phase will cover parking lots and is scheduled for implementation in Summer 2009. Future phases will cover other security sensitive areas.
2. Doors with swing-type door hardware will be replaced to prevent the capability of individuals from chaining the doors shut. FM identified 154 doors with swing-type door hardware that will be replaced in multiple stages over a five year period.
3. A successful card access pilot program (IMRON) has been adopted as the new District standard and will be added to new and existing facilities in the future. The IMRON card access system allows for centralized access control and has many features including remote lock down capability.

Communications Sub-Committee

Community notification in the event of a critical incident is the key to an effective response. The Communications Sub-Committee was tasked with researching various notification systems that would be viable for our District. The committee proposed a multi-layered approach with the first layer consisting of low-tech systems including public address systems, message boards and alert beacons. The second layer increases the use of technology with the Wide Area Rapid Notification (W.A.R.N.) system. The W.A.R.N. notification system is a system that can employ interactive delivery of critical information in any form to students, faculty, staff, alumni, volunteers and parents. The system provides notification by phone, computer, PDA, TREO, Blackberry, fax, email and text messaging. The system is an "opt-in" service and depends on students, staff and faculty submitting their contact information so that they can be contacted in the event of an emergency. The W.A.R.N. system has been selected and will be implemented in Fall 2009. On-going committee duties include:

1. To vet any issues before W.A.R.N. is implemented.
2. To advise on policies and procedures for activation and overall use of the system.
3. To make recommendations on methods to collect contact information from staff and students.
Training Sub-Committee

The goal of the Training Sub-Committee is to review current training protocols and assess/evaluate additional training and equipment needs. Training is essential for emergency preparedness, and each semester the Emergency Management Team (EMT) conducts training exercises to test our readiness in various scenarios. Exercises to date include:

- **October 2006** - Hazardous materials table top exercise at SCC (simulated hazardous materials spill on the railroad tracks adjacent to campus)
- **September 2006** - Operation Delta Breeze at CRC (simulated levee break in the Pocket area focusing on evacuation of elderly, disabled and animals to the campus)
- **May 2007** - Operation Falcon's Eye at FLC (simulated pandemic flu outbreak involving evacuating campus and triaging all personnel for symptoms prior to leaving)
- **January 2008** - Active Shooter drill at ARC (simulated armed gunman on campus resulting in multiple victims and attempts to contain the gunman)
- **June 2008** - Operation Vigilant Panther at SCC (simulated hi-jacked tanker truck colliding with two buildings on campus resulting in multiple injuries and the suspect at large)
- **March 2009** - Operation DO Prep (simulated leak in the levee resulting in complete evacuation of the District Office and activation of the EDC at FM)

Another excellent training program that was recently implemented by the EMT is the C-CERT (Campus Community Emergency Response Team) program. The training consists of 16 hours of classroom training in fire prevention/suppression; medical triage and treatment; light search and rescue; disaster psychology; terrorism, and an 8-hour practical exercise. C-CERT teams have been trained at Cosumnes River College, Folsom Lake College, and the FLC-El Dorado Center. The EMT expects to complete initial C-CERT training with teams at SCC and ARC prior to August of 2009.

Building Coordinator Sub-Committee

The goal of the Building Coordinator Program is to create an organized process for building evacuation in the event of an emergency. The program is called A.C.E.S. (Action Coordinators for Emergency Survival). The purpose of the program is to identify and train faculty, staff and students throughout the District to conduct building evacuations, search and rescue missions, and to provide basic first aid. The concept is to empower operational units to address disaster/emergency related issues before assistance arrives. A.C.E.S. participants will be trained to disseminate information and to know how to locate and use emergency equipment.

Program participants will be trained by the Los Rios Police Department, and Campus Operations will oversee the program. A.C.E.S. was recently implemented as a pilot program at the FLC-El Dorado Center (EDC) and it has been well received by staff and faculty. Currently the EDC team has approximately 12 volunteers and is led by Dale Van Dam and Adrienne Aquino.

Join Us!

Do you want to get involved with emergency preparedness? Each semester the EMT conducts training exercises, so if you would like to get involved, contact one of the EMT members listed below:

- **Chief Rick Jones** 558-2550
- **Captain Cheryl Sears** 691-7400/608-6566
- **Sgt John McPeek** 691-7506
- **Officer Dustin Poore** 691-7575
- **Officer Paul Vagen** 691-7575
- **Officer Don Silva** 484-8019
- **Debbie Turner** 568-3189