

Preparing for an Emergency

What is an emergency? A situation that poses an immediate or impending danger to people or property.



What kinds of emergencies could happen?

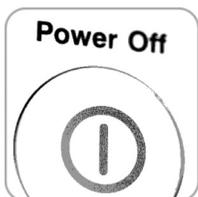
- *Health Hazards:*

This fall, health officials expect that H1N1 (Swine Flu) will be a significant health threat. Stay healthy with preventive hygiene like hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when sick.



- *Weather-related:*

In Arizona we experience flash floods and sudden storms. Be aware. Stay indoors during storms. Don't cross flooded streets or parks – on foot or in vehicles. If driving, pull to the side of the road and turn off lights. (people tend to follow lights)



- *Technological:*

Loss of technology resources (possibly due to weather related incidents). Back up all your documents, use anti-virus and other protective software, visit trustworthy websites.



- *Bio-hazards:*

Chemical spills, lab accidents, gas leaks, etc. This may also include fires. Understand the potential risks in your environment and what actions you will be expected to take if there is a lab accident or chemical spill. Always evacuate a building when the fire alarm sounds.



- *Violence/terrorism:*

If warned of a shooting incident, follow lockdown directives to secure your immediate area. Do not evacuate if danger is eminent.

How are emergency notifications issued?

Notification is based on urgency and danger levels.

Technology: MEMS Alerts - Students and employees at the Maricopa Community Colleges are automatically enrolled in the MEMS Alert system which will send text messages, e-mails, and digital messages to several devices depending on the situation. Make sure your contact information is updated in www.my.maricopa.edu to take full advantage of this service.

Emergency Preparedness websites are posted at both the District and College level – they warn of a variety of hazards on the Current Issues page – as well as post urgent emergency messages distributed through the MEMS Alert system.

www.maricopa.edu/mems
www.paradisevalley.edu/mems

Specific situations, such as power losses, may prompt low-tech notifications. For example: in-person/door-to-door/bullhorn. Follow the instructions of authorized personnel.

Stop Immediate Threat or Harm – Report It

Call 9-1-1 for emergencies. Please do not ignore or disregard violence or threats against you or others – the college needs your assistance to make our campus safe. For assistance, call college Public Safety at:602.787.7900

If you are concerned about the conduct of a student, employee, or visitor, you may, in addition to Public Safety, inform: Student Affairs, Human Resources, your instructor or your supervisor. In all cases, be sure to communicate that you feel the behavior involves violence or a violation of policies. You may be asked to provide your complaint in writing.

What am I responsible for knowing?

You must know three key directives:

- evacuate (i.e. fire)
- lockdown (i.e. shooter)
- shelter-in-place (i.e. storms)