

Threat/Event Descriptions

NOTE: unless otherwise specified, all events occur during the middle of a “typical” academic instruction weekday while classes are in session and all staff are present.

I. Natural Hazards/Events

1. Catastrophic Earthquake

Maximum credible earthquake (“the big one”) occurs on a nearby fault. If quake magnitude is $>7.0M$, assume there is structural collapse of buildings seismically rated “very poor”, significant structural and non-structural damage to buildings rated “poor”, moderate structural and non-structural damage to buildings rated “fair”, and minor structural and non-structural damage to buildings rated “good.” Casualties are commensurate with size and scope of predicted earthquake.

2. Tsunami – Coastal

Extent of impact campus-specific as predicted based on maximum credible event (only applies to coastal campuses).

3. Flood

Campus stream has a 100-year magnitude flood event, causing flooding within 100-year floodplain on campus (if applicable). Alternatively, (if there is no campus floodplain), a large water storage tank on or adjacent to campus fails, causing flash flooding downhill. Alternatively, an upstream dam fails, resulting in downstream flash flooding.

4. High Winds

High winds topple a number of large trees on central campus, causing damage to structures and power lines adjacent to the trees.

5. Wildfire

Wildland fire starts upwind of campus during “red flag” high fire danger conditions (“Santa Ana/Sundowner/Diablo” wind conditions) during Fall peak fire season. Fire bumps up against periphery of central campus. Consequences will be campus-specific, depending on campus layout (number of vulnerable campus facilities adjacent to wild land areas), local topography, and adjacent wildland vegetation fuel loading.

6. Landslide/mudslide

Localized land/mudslide occurs on unstable hillside during severe rainstorm event. Consequences will be campus-specific, depending on vulnerable campus facilities located on potentially unstable hillsides.

II. Technological Hazards/Events

1. Power Failure

Widespread campus power failure. Damages and overall impacts commensurate with past campus power outages.

2. Water Supply Disruption

Major central campus water main breaks causing localized flooding. Extent of campus disruption will depend on vulnerability of campus water distribution system. Damages and overall impacts commensurate with past campus water main breaks.

3. Telecommunications System Failure

Widespread campus telecommunications failure (telephone/wireless systems).

4. Information Technology Infrastructure Failure

Centrally managed technology platforms (network mainframe/servers) fail at major campus data center facility due to hacking activity or technical malfunction.

5. Residence Hall Fire

Major residence hall fire starts in the middle of the night while occupants are asleep, and quickly spreads to a significant portion of the building. Consequences campus-specific depending on most vulnerable of residence hall building (sprinkler protection, building age and construction, etc.).

6. Central Administration Building or Laboratory Building Fire

Main campus administration building heavily damaged by fire. Alternatively, major fire in a lab research building - hazardous materials complicate response and fire suppression, and creates toxic smoke plume (choose the scenario that has greatest campus-wide impact).

7. Accidental Hazmat Release

An experiment goes awry in a major lab building, creating a toxic gas plume that spreads out of the lab into other areas of the building, and escapes into the outside air as well.

III. Human-related Events

1. Public Health Emergency

An outbreak of a highly infectious/contagious disease occurs in the campus community, resulting in significant illness (greater than a typical flu outbreak).

2. Sports/Public Event Disturbance

Civil disturbance occurs following a campus public event. Impacts commensurate with past campus experiences.

3. Hostage Situation/Workplace Violence

Gunman shoots targeted staff members in an administration building and then takes a small group of staff hostage, causing limited number of casualties.

4. Civil Disturbance

A significant “riot” breaks out near campus and spills onto the central campus. Impacts commensurate with past campus experiences.

IV. Terrorism Events

1. Truck Bomb

A small truck filled with explosives is detonated adjacent to a likely campus target, destroying facilities within a 700’ radius and causing damage through flying metal fragments/shrapnel and breaking window glass within a 3000’ radius, and causing casualties to those in the affected area.

2. Mail/package Bomb

A small mail package bomb is detonated inside a campus office, causing damage to the office and adjacent offices, and causing casualties to those in the immediate area.

3. Active Shooter

Shooter(s) opens fire with an automatic weapon on a central campus plaza during busy lunch hour, causing multiple casualties.

4. Intentional Biological or Chemical Agent Release

An infectious agent (i.e. - anthrax) is intentionally released inside a campus building, resulting in a limited number of illnesses (anthrax is not contagious - it is thought to be a flu outbreak for the first few days). There are some casualties and many “worried well” persons. There is no physical damage to facilities, although decontamination is required.

Alternatively, an industrial chemical (cyanide) is released inside a campus building, resulting in casualties. There is no physical damage to facilities. (choose the scenario with the greatest campus-wide impact).

5. Intentional Radiological Material Release

A small radiological device (“dirty bomb”) is detonated outside a campus building. The actual area of contamination and radiation exposure is minimal. Several persons are injured and exposed to radiation in the initial explosion. There is hysteria in the greater campus community. There is relatively minor damage to the building, but there is significant radiological contamination of the immediate blast area.

6. Theft of Select Agent

Samples of a highly infectious select agent are found missing from a research laboratory. No one is injured or infected, but the media has learned of the incident and there is extensive press coverage.

7. Agri-terrorism

An animal research lab (or genetically engineered crops) are vandalized or destroyed during the middle of the night. No one is injured in the attack, however valuable equipment and/or crop collections/specimens are destroyed.

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