

# Argo Storm

## 2014 UWF Hurricane Exercise

The purpose of this tabletop exercise was to assess the capabilities of the university to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a significant hurricane threat. UWF has been fortunate to avoid a direct hurricane strike to our campus since Hurricane Dennis in 2005.

### Scenario Summary

A tropical cyclone moves into the Gulf of Mexico developing into a Category 2 Hurricane before making landfall in the Florida Panhandle. The Hurricane causes major flooding and wind damage, directly impacting the Florida State University campus, the student population, and critical infrastructure.

The exercises will be a Tabletop Exercise conducted in a boardroom setting. This portion will utilize the Tabletop Exercise System Technology (TEST) developed by Florida State University. This approach causes analysis of the current plans in pre-landfall, post-landfall, and the beginning stages of recovery in a low stress environment. Encouraging collaborative discussion allows participants to work through the multiple components of the overarching scenario.

### Program Information

The exercise will be conducted by the FSU Center for Disaster Risk Policy (CDRP) which is a public service organization within FSU's College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. The CDRP provides government organizations technical assistance and program and information system development related to emergency management. The Center's mission is to identify, develop, and promote best practices in emergency and public management.

The format for this exercise will be a tabletop. Tabletop exercises are designed to be low stress and discussion based. The personnel required for this TTX are as follows:

- 1) Executive Leadership Group:
  - University President
  - Vice-President for Academic Affairs (Provost)
  - Vice President and Chief of Staff
  - Vice-President of Business, Finance & Facilities
  - Vice-President for Student Affairs
  - Vice-President for University Advancement
  - General Counsel
  
- 2.) Senior Management:
  - Chief of Police
  - Director of Environmental Health & Safety
  - Director of Facilities Planning and Operations
  - Director of Public Relations
  - Director of Health Services
  - Director of Housing
  - Dean of Students
  - Associate Vice-President of Financial Services

- Associate Vice-President of University Relations and Communications
- Associate Vice-President of Enrollment Services (Registrar)
- Associate Vice-President of Human Resources
- Associate Vice President for Internal Auditing and Management Consulting
- Senior Associate Vice-President of Information Technology Services (Chief Information Officer)
- Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
- President of the Student Government Association

3.) Special Invitees:

- Athletic Director
- Associate Director of Recreation and Athletic Facilities

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### **2014 UWF Hurricane Exercise**

1. Hurricane Season is approaching and the University starts to prepare at around this time of year.
2. Every year we hold a large meeting to essentially just go through a Roll-Call of the different departments involved in response and ask if they are prepared.
3. Following the 2013 meeting, EH&S was “ENCOURAGED” to find a better way to ensure UWF was prepared.
4. I think we found a better way.
5. In June of 2013 all SUS Emergency Managers were encouraged by the BOG to act as evaluators for a major hurricane exercise being put on for FSU by the Center for Disaster Risk Policy (CDRP).
6. The FSU tabletop was a two part Hurricane Exercise called Seminole Storm.
  - Part 1 – Executive and Senior Administrators only.
  - Part 2 – Over 200 faculty, staff and other administrators participated.
7. The Center for Disaster Risk Policy (CDRP) was subsequently contacted by UWF-EH&S and questioned about the possibility of producing a TTX for UWF Executive and Senior Administrators.
8. EH&S was informed by CDRP it would be cost intensive and time prohibitive. However, they would be more than willing to come over and facilitate the same exercise they put on for FSU.
9. CDRP stated they would happy to facilitate the exercise for UWF at NO COST.
10. At UWF we are well versed in preparing for an approaching storm but this TTX would test our abilities required for the full spectrum of the emergency including response and recovery.
11. The exercise scenario is based on an approaching hurricane which appears to be heading our way. One of the problems in the scenario (in addition to all the regular issues) is the fact that a football game is scheduled with all the events and people which go along with it.
12. This exercise would be extremely helpful to test our institution’s resilience to properly respond to the next inevitable land-falling hurricane on our campus.
13. TTX are designed to be low stress and discussion based. This particular TTX would last approximately 3 to 4 hours.