

Emergency Actions and What They Mean

In an emergency, you may receive instructions to take one of several immediate actions. Here's an explanation of what each action means:

1. EVACUATION

What It Is:

An evacuation is the temporary but rapid removal of people from a building or portion of a building threatened by an emergency. This could be due to fire, hazardous materials, or another dangerous situation.

What to Do:

- Follow the evacuation routes provided in the alert or building signage.
- Leave the building immediately and move to the designated assembly point.
- Do not use elevators.
- Await further instructions from emergency personnel.

2. LOCKDOWN

What It Is:

A lockdown occurs when occupants are directed to remain confined to a room or area. Specific procedures will be provided, including locking doors, closing windows and shades, and taking cover. Lockdowns are implemented when a criminal element is believed to be on the premises, and officials expect that remaining in place will minimize the risk of exposure to danger.

What to Do:

- Lock all doors and windows.
- Turn off lights and remain quiet.
- Stay out of sight and away from windows.
- Follow all instructions provided by law enforcement and await further information.

3. SHELTER IN PLACE

What It Is:

Sheltering in place means remaining inside a building during an environmental event that poses a threat outside, such as releasing hazardous chemicals or severe weather. This procedure is like a lockdown but is generally used for environmental hazards rather than criminal threats. In some cases, occupants may need to be moved to a safer area within the building.

What to Do:

- Stay inside the building, away from windows and exterior walls.
- If advised, move to a designated shelter area (e.g., interior hallways or basement).
- Shut off ventilation systems if applicable (for hazardous material incidents).
- Wait for further instructions or the all-clear signal.

4. AVOID THE AREA

What It Is:

This directive is used when there is a danger in a specific location on Campus or nearby, and individuals must stay away to avoid exposure to the threat. The threat could be a crime scene, hazardous material spill, or other situation that poses a risk.

What to Do:

- Stay clear of the area mentioned in the alert.
- If you are already in the area, follow evacuation or shelter-in-place instructions as directed.
- Do not attempt to bypass barricades or emergency personnel.
- Await further instructions on when the area will be safe.

5. COMMUTING TO CAMPUS

If You Are Commuting to Campus:

- Use the information provided in the alert to assess whether it is safe to continue to Campus. If the alert indicates severe weather, hazardous conditions, or campus closure, it is best to use your judgment based on your current location and road conditions.
- If in doubt or conditions are worsening, consider delaying your commute until further notice or until the Campus reopens.

- Updates about road conditions, closures, and campus operations will be posted on the UCCS Alerts website and communicated via email and the UCCS Safe app.
- If you are still deciding whether to continue to Campus, call UCCS Police at 719-255-3111 for advice or further information.

If You Are Already On Campus and Don't Have a Ride:

- If the situation calls for evacuation or the Campus is closing and you do not have immediate transportation off-campus, stay calm and proceed to the nearest safe location or shelter as directed.
- You may need to contact UCCS Police at 719-255-3111 for assistance, particularly if transportation services are interrupted or road conditions are hazardous.
- UCCS will provide updates on transportation options if necessary, and you should monitor the UCCS Alerts website or emergency notifications for guidance on what to do next.

If You Are Unsure About What to Do:

- In any emergency, if you are still deciding whether to continue to Campus, leave Campus, or take other actions, use your best judgment based on the available information.
- If you still have concerns or need immediate guidance, contact UCCS Police at 719-255-3111 for further instructions and assistance.

All communication platforms will provide consistent information, ensuring you receive the exact critical details regardless of your device or method.