Emergency Preparedness Video

For more than 40 years, MCC has provided valuable education for thousands of students from all walks of life, from all over the state, country and the world. My name is Steve Corich. I’m the director of Public Safety here at MCC. It’s my responsibility to ensure the safety of students and faculty while they are here on campus. The world is changing and there are a variable of scenarios that can threaten our campus.

The college is bordered by two freeway systems, the U.S. 60 and Loop 101. We are also located between Fiesta Mall and Banner Desert Hospital. This location brings tremendous amount of activity both good and bad to our campus. Because of this activity we have a variety of security measures in place to inform and protect those who come into the college. It’s important for faculty, staff and students to first be aware of the safeguards in place and next be prepared in case of a crisis. For safety of our college population, we have campus police officers and security officers patrolling the campus around the clock. If a 911 call is made from a campus phone, Public Safety is notified immediately. In addition, our officers have the ability to communicate with the Mesa Police Department by radio. We also have dispatchers on duty at all times. Please contact them if you have an emergency or witness suspicious activity of any kind on campus.

There are over 50 security cameras located on Southern and Dobson campus and nearly 20 at the Red Mountain campus. This cameras are monitored any time students are on campus and are continually recording incase review is needed in the future. There are panic alarms installed in most departments on campus. The alarm will not sound in the area where is initiated, but will alert Public Safety, who will respond immediately. A mass notification system is also in place with broadcast capability to the 1700 phones on campus. Please listen carefully for emergency instructions. Be aware that the safest evacuation route may not be the obvious choice.

“Attention please. The MCC Public Safety department has ordered a lockdown of the entire campus. Please remain inside your current location or find a nearby securable room. You will be given an all clear once the situation is safe.” Also installed is the Alertus Notification System. There are 60 yellow Alertus boxes mounted on the wall in large meeting areas such as the Kirk Student Center. This ADA complaint system will notify students and faculty members of safety issues with a loud siren, bright flashing red lights, and a scrolly-marked message. These redundant warning systems are in place to provide info in the event that one fails.

In the case of campus violence is an active shooter, the notification system will be activated with instructions on how to proceed with a campus wide lockdown. The following procedures are designed to protect faculty, staff and students during a lockdown in help
prepare if a crisis should occur. Follow the instructions that are given over the phone system by the phone system, or over the Alertus beacons or by college officials. These instructions will probably be brief. Assist others in the immediate vicinity. Look down in your current or nearby location. Southern and Dobson campus requires a manual lockdown, while the Red Mountain Campus is both in electronic and manual systems.

Most active shooters suspects are on a tight schedule, looking for easy targets and they will most likely move on if they find a closed door. Turn off lights, close blinds, move furniture in front of the door if possible. Remain quiet, calm and wait for further instructions. The lockdown will be in effect until the threat is over. The average crisis last from 5 to 10 minutes in these scenarios. When under lock down keep the occupants inside the room. To leave the room will put everyone in danger. Do not open the door for others. If you open the door, you are risking the life of everyone inside. Do not call Public Safety unless there is an emergency in your immediate area. Do call Public Safety if you observe or have knowledge of the suspect’s location. Wait for all clear message before securing from lockdown.

“The MCC Public Safety Department has determined that is now safe to leave your secured location. We are now clear to return to normal college operation.”

Please note that in an event of a crisis, the Public Safety officers will respond in 2-3 minutes. City of Mesa Police Department has an average response time of 5-8 minutes to locations inside our campus. Three areas that can contribute to a safer campus include: awareness, preparation, and rehearsal. Awareness means constantly being aware of what is going on around you and is key to being safe. Preparation means asking yourself questions in advance: what are my options, what do I do, where do I go, who do I need to protect, if I have a situation erupt in my workplace or classroom how do I escape or lockdown. Rehearsal means taking time in the beginning of each semester to review the lockdown procedures for your area; practices steps that should be taken to contribute to the safety of yourself and others on campus.

Preparation and practice really do save lives. On September 11, 2001 when the first hijacked plane struck the World Trading Center Building number 1, Morgan Stanley security executives immediately put in place their frequently practiced evacuation plan for its 3800 employees for building 2 and 5. The plan took just 45 minutes to evacuate employees down flights of stairs to safety. Morgan Stanley still lost 13 employees that day, but could have lost many more if not for their well rehearsed disaster plan. Here at MCC your safety is our highest priority. Please keep in mind that following safety plans creates a safer campus for all of us.