

# **BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER**

**1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** University of Nevada, Reno Argenta and Nye Update for the Security Committee

**MEETING DATE:** September 5-6, 2019

**2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

The Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education Security Committee has requested a summary of preparations leading up to and immediate actions taken following the explosion at Argenta Hall on July 5, 2019. Amanda Windes, Manager Organizational Resilience and Todd Renwick, Interim Chief, University Police Services will make a presentation on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno.

**3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

University of Nevada, Reno President Marc Johnson, through Amanda Windes, Manager Organizational Resilience and Todd Renwick, Interim Chief, University Police Services presents information regarding the University of Nevada, Reno emergency preparation, and immediate response and support efforts provided regarding the July 5, 2019 explosion.

**4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

The July 5, 2019 explosion at Argenta Hall spurred a large multi-agency response that resulted in a City of Reno Emergency Declaration and formal resource requests from the State of Nevada to stabilize the situation. The University of Nevada, Reno has put in place comprehensive emergency management systems/preparations that were immediately enacted during this event.

**5. CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:**

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21<sup>st</sup> century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

**INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL**

For information only

**6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

Pre-Incident Preparation Ramifications

- Staff/Student preparedness training and evacuation drills resulted in timely lifesaving response to the emergency situation.
- University Police Service participation in mutual-aid agreements, preparations, and interoperable communications with Northern Nevada response agencies provided immediate integration with other response agencies to save lives and protect property.

- Organizational Resiliency all-hazard planning, preparations preparedness, and full integration with Regional Partners as a signatory to the Washoe Regional Emergency Management Plan ensured successful emergency management.
- Pre-established relationships with mutual-aid partners facilitated an effective immediate response.

**Immediate Incident Response**

- Adherence to incident command system resulted in rapid establishment of command and control of the incident.
- Engaged in interoperable communications with mutual-aid partners critical for situational awareness and coordination.
- Utilized Regional Dispatch model, which allowed for immediate deployment of assets and resources ensuring rapid mutual-aid assistance for expanding incident, equipment tracking, and agencies responding with a massive increase in radio traffic and call volume.

**Incident Support**

- Engagement and previous training of the University of Nevada, Reno Issues Management Team, including FEMA courses, provided strategic oversight needed to support the onsite responders.
- Experience and training of the University of Nevada, Reno Issues Management Team resulted in the identification, prioritization, and management of additional issues resulting from the crisis.
- Continuity-of-operations planning, exercises, and formal training by the University of Nevada, Reno Issues Management Team provided succession plans to maintain leadership and authority as well as establish alternative operations to maintain essential functions.
- The University of Nevada, Reno Issues Management Team transitioned the incident from unified emergency-response efforts to Student Services and Facilities Services for recovery efforts.

**7. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

For information only

**8. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

For information only

**9. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE:**

For information only

**10. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain: This item is for information only

# ARGENTA AND NYE HALLS UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

Chief Todd Renwick and Organizational Resilience Manager, Amanda Windes  
September 5, 2019



University of Nevada, Reno

Board of Regents Meeting

Security Committee

Thursday, September 5, 2019



University of Nevada, Reno

# Argenta Incident

- July 5, 2019, approximately 1 p.m.
- Explosion in boiler room of Argenta Hall triggering an automatic fire/police response due to activation of fire suppression system
- Approximately 10-12 minutes later massive explosion occurred
- Regional mutual aid and mass casualty plan were activated
- Over 21 agencies responded

Screen Shot of video taken moments after utilities explosion. Destiny Iwuajoku, provided to the RGJ



# Incident Command System

- Rapid establishment of Unified Command
- Unity of command
- Span of control
- Transition of leadership



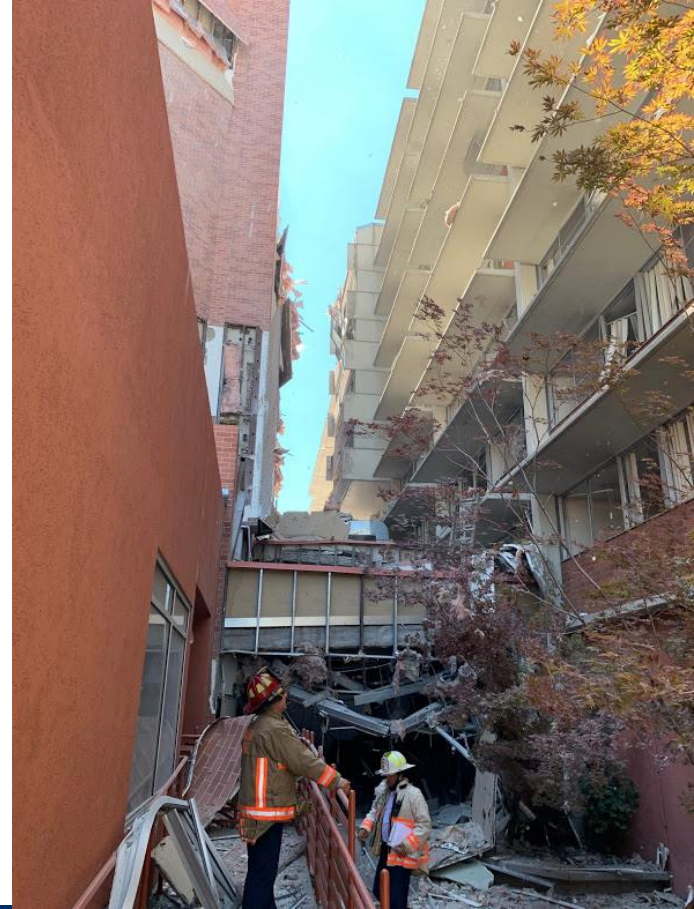
# Interoperable Communications

- Wide variety of local/county/state/federal mutual aid partners
- Situational awareness
- Operational coordination



# Regional Dispatch Model

- Resource deployment
- Equipment tracking
- Radio traffic and call volume expanded





# Issues Management Team

- Provided strategic oversight to support onsite responders
- Identified, prioritized and managed additional issues resulting from the crisis
  - Personnel accountability
  - Public Information
  - Property reunification
- Continued essential functions
  - Dining
  - Housing
  - Human Resources



# Pre-Incident Preparations

- Trainings
  - Staff/Student preparedness and evacuation drills
  - University Police Services exercises and drills (including regional trainings)
  - Regional Emergency Operations Center exercises/integration
  - University of Nevada, Reno Issues Management Team
    - FEMA courses
    - University wide semi-annual tabletop exercises
    - Continuity of operations
    - Special event tabletop exercises
    - Department of Homeland Security National Seminar for Institutions of Higher Education
- All Hazard and Continuity Planning - Succession Planning



# Relationships

- Mutual aid agreements
- Interoperable communications with northern Nevada response agencies
- Washoe Regional Emergency Management Plan Signator
  - Regional Mass Casualty Plan
  - Alpha Plan for Hospital Surge Capacity
- Local Emergency Planning Committee Membership



# Professional Affiliations



## Disaster Resilient Universities



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

- FEMA Advanced Professional Alumni Association
- FEMA National Executive Academy Alumni Association



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