

5-22-2008

Emergency Responders Visit Campus

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Recommended Citation

Office of Public Affairs, "Emergency Responders Visit Campus" (2008). *Press Releases*. Paper 365.
http://opus.govst.edu/press_releases/365

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For Immediate Release

Emergency Responders Visit Campus

University Park, IL, May 22, 2008 – Governors State University hosted more than 30 representatives of area police and fire departments and emergency management agencies for a unique, informative session designed to familiarize first responders and their commanders with the university facilities, layout, and emergency plans. The meeting was part of the university's ongoing commitment to maintaining safety on campus.

The GSU Emergency Response Team organized the meeting. The team's primary responsibilities include refining the university's emergency response plans, and insuring all systems are in place in case of an emergency.

"The input of area police and fire departments is integral to the success of our emergency response efforts," said Chief Debra Boyd, Director of Public Safety. "If we have a major emergency on campus, they would be called to assist. Prior knowledge of this facility is vital to an effective response."

Boyd also noted that it was important for area commanders and chiefs to assess the facilities of the university, which would be available for their use in case of an emergency or natural disaster in their communities.

"Sharing resources in time of need is an important component to successfully responding to an emergency and handling a threat," added Boyd.

After the information session and a tour of the campus, the representatives were asked to provide suggestions and observations. Additionally, more in depth tours and emergency response exercises with area police and fire departments will be scheduled in the future.

"The more prepared we are, the safer our community is," said Boyd. "We were very pleased to see so many representatives from area police and fire departments."

Representatives of police and fire departments and emergency management agencies present at the meeting came from the Beecher, Dolton, East Hazel Crest, Flossmoor, Homewood, Joliet, Joliet Junior College, Matteson, Mokena, Park Forest, Phoenix, Peotone, Prairie State College, Richton Park, Robbins, Will County EMA, Will County Sheriff's Office, South Chicago Heights, Steger, Tinley Park, and University Park.