

# CATASTROPHIC EVENTS

## What is a catastrophic or large-scale event?

It is any natural or manmade incident, including terrorism, which results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale and/or government functions.

## What events are included in this?

- Large explosions in or close to a building.
- Plane crash at a local nearby airport or directly on the campus.

*In the event of a plane crash on a campus, the affected area should be evacuated, while being cautious to avoid areas of falling debris. A crash at a nearby airport could cause the release of a toxic plume and the possible **sheltering** of all people downwind of the release.*

- Transportation accident on or near the campus involving hazardous materials.
- Release of a hazardous chemical from a nearby industrial plant or nuclear power reactor.

*Evacuation of the immediate area and sheltering people downwind is the most common emergency response for rail and truck accidents involving toxic substances and also from releases from industrial or nuclear power reactors.*

## What do I do in the case of a catastrophic or large scale event?

- EVACUATE **or**
- SHELTER IN PLACE.

*Your response will be guided by University Police, Building Safety Personnel, and/or other emergency personnel or first responders depending on the nature of the event.*

**Be familiar with Evacuation and Shelter in Place procedures.**  
**See dedicated sections.**

## What do I do if I witness a catastrophic or large-scale event?

- EVACUATE the area in a safe direction. assisting others if possible.
- STAY upwind, uphill, and or upstream from any material released by the event.
- CALL 911 from a safe location and report the event.

## What information do I need to have readily available when reporting?

- Your name and location
- What happened and where
- Extent of injuries, if known
- Type of material released, if known

**Even though the possibility of such an occurrence is miniscule, certain incidents are addressed in the Crisis Action Guide since the event would threaten a large number of people.**