1. PURPOSE:

1.1. Facilitate timely notification and warning to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors of Florida Atlantic University of actual or potential threats or emergency events occurring at FAU locations.

2. POLICY STATEMENT:

2.1. It is the policy of Florida Atlantic University to immediately notify the University community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate or potential threat to the health or safety of students or staff affecting or that can affect FAU’s campuses, unless issuing a notification will worsen or compromise efforts to contain the emergency.

2.2. In order to fulfill this policy, FAU will:
   • Confirm the existence of a credible emergency event or dangerous situation.
   • Determine appropriate segments of campus or specific campuses to notify.
   • Determine message content and appropriate notification methods to employ.
   • Initiate notification systems.

2.3. This policy must take the following into consideration:
   • Many emergencies requiring activation of the alert system components will be “without warning.”
   • No one-method of communication will reach everyone, everywhere, every time.
   • Individual alert system components are not 100% dependable. Redundancy through utilization of numerous and various communication methods is necessary.
   • Intended audiences may not receive or may receive delayed messages due to situations beyond the control of the University.
   • Incorrect information may be generated and distributed by individuals outside official channels (i.e. word of mouth, text messaging). This requires FAU Alert messages to be clear, concise, accurate, and readily identifiable as “official” FAU Alert messages.
   • Regular testing of the alert system components is required to ensure functionality and to familiarize recipients with the system’s features. All tests must be evaluated and corrective actions implemented as necessary.
   • New communication methods may be identified and others may become obsolete. A constant evaluation of the effectiveness of alert system components is required.

2.4. This policy is intended to comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations including, but not limited to, U.S. Public Law 110-315, Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), and Code of Federal Regulations (34CFR), FAU President’s Emergency Response Plan, University Policy 1.14 (Emergency Management)
3. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

3.1. Phases of Emergency Communication

3.1.1. Preparedness and Education – to inform University community members about the hazards the university may encounter and to educate them on steps that they can take to prepare for and/or mitigate their impacts.

3.1.2. Emergency Notification and Alerting – to inform individuals that an emergency condition exists that threatens their health and safety, and to provide protective action recommendations.

3.1.3. Emergency Follow-up/Status Update – to provide important updated information or instructions regarding an ongoing or recently terminated emergency.

3.1.4. All Clear/Recovery Information – to offer messages after the emergency has ended that are more informational in nature and are not related to the immediate health and safety of the University community.

3.2. FAU Alert System Components: The following methods are available for emergency notification and are known as FAU Alert system components:

- Mass E-mail
- Telephone Call out
- Text Message
- Social Media – Facebook, Twitter
- CAP (Common Alerting Protocol)
- Digital displays
- Desktop Alerting
- Outdoor Warning Sirens (Boca Raton, Jupiter, HBOI)
- Hotline
- Media Advisories
- Voicemail
- Web pages – Homepage and webpage components
- Alert Now (Henderson/Slattery)

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1. Emergency Notification

4.1.1. Warning Point: The University Police Dispatch Center on the Boca Raton campus is the 24-hour warning point for FAU. It is the main point through which information is received regarding emergency events or threats that may require emergency notification of all or parts of the University community. When the University Police Department is made aware of a potential or actual emergency situation, the highest ranking FAUPD official on duty shall immediately utilize the chain of command to notify the Chief of University Police. The Chief of Police will then contact the VP of Administrative Affairs. If the VP of Administrative Affairs cannot be reached, the President should be contacted.
Alternatively, as soon as an Executive Policy Group (EPG) member is made aware of an incident, crisis, or emergency situation, the EPG member should first contact police or fire rescue, if needed and then contact the VP of Administrative Affairs. It is the VP of Administrative Affairs' responsibility to ensure that the President or designee and appropriate members of the EPG are aware of the situation. If the VP of Administrative Affairs cannot be reached, the President should be contacted.

4.1.2. Confirmation of the existence of an emergency event or threat: Normally, the University’s first responders, the University Police, are the ones who confirm the existence of a credible emergency event or threat with a call being received through the 24-hour University warning point. However, in the event that a University Police Officer is not yet at the scene of the emergency event or threat, or on a partner campus where University Police presence is small, confirmation may occur from other local emergency responders (i.e. City/County Law Enforcement or Fire Rescue) or a person or group who can authorize the notification as outlined in the Message Authorization Section below. This person or group will notify University Police and/or may authorize initiation of appropriate FAU Alert System components.

4.1.3. Message Authorization: Authorization to send emergency notifications involving immediate threats to the health and safety of the University community will be given by the highest ranking individual listed below as circumstances permit. President’s designees can authorize the immediate launch of emergency messages without consultation if in their judgment delay in notification would compromise the health and safety of the University community.

The individuals authorized to determine whether an alert should be launched are:

- President
- Provost
- Vice President, Administrative Affairs
- Vice President, Public Affairs
- Chief of University Police
- Director, Environmental Health and Safety
- Director, Emergency Management
- Highest Ranking University Police Department officer on site or available by phone
- Assistant Dean, College of Education, PK-12 Schools and Educational Programs (for emergencies affecting A.D. Henderson University Schools and Karen Slattery Educational Research Center only)

4.1.4. Notification Guidelines: When an emergency event or threat occurs the following phases of emergency communication are key - Emergency Notification and Alerting, Emergency Follow Up/Status Update and Recovery Information/All Clear.

4.1.4.1. Emergency Notification and Alerting: An initial notification to the university is made when the Chief of Police or another individual from the Message Authorization Section (4.1.3) above has confirmed that an emergency situation actually poses, or may reasonably be expected to pose, an immediate threat to life safety or security of the campus population. If, in the professional judgment of the individual(s) with the authority to authorize emergency notifications, issuing an emergency notification will create a more serious emergency and/or compromise
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the University’s efforts to contain the emergency, a notification should not be made.

4.1.4.2 **Emergency Follow Up/ Status Update Notification:** Follow up/status update notifications to the University are sent after an initial notification message has been previously disseminated. These notifications are released when there is new information or instructions for the University population, such as changes in protective actions. Messages are also sent at appropriate intervals to reiterate the current state of the emergency, especially if significant time has passed since the last update. The individuals from the Message Authorization Section above have the authority to launch emergency follow up/status update notifications as warranted.

4.1.4.3. **All Clear/Recovery Information:** An “All Clear” notification is disseminated and indicates that the emergency has been contained or effectively managed. All Clear notifications should be timed such that messages do not overlap. All Clear notifications are authorized by the incident commander or an individual from the Message Authorization Section above in consultation with the incident commander.

“Recovery Information” is disseminated after an “All Clear” message has been given and contains further instructions or actions in preparation for a return to normal operations.

4.1.5. **Message Language** Numerous standing messages have been authorized and exist within several alert component systems such as telephone call out, mass e-mail, text message and outdoor warning sirens. Other message language and wording is governed by the following:

4.1.5.1. Message wording is approved by the person or group authorizing the notification as outlined in the Message Authorization Section above.

4.1.5.2. Length of message is dictated by the distribution method selected; i.e., text messages are limited to a specified number of characters.

4.1.5.3 Messages should include several key elements:
- Indication the notification is from FAU Alert or “Attention FAU”, that latter is used if the message is informational in nature and not related to impending or immediate-threat emergencies.
- Message/Announcement number and/or date/time stamp.
- Brief description of the incident.
- Actions affected population should take; i.e., evacuate building, avoid area of campus, or shelter in place.

4.1.5.4. Additional or supplemental information should include the following:
- Reference FAU Homepage or appropriate information source for additional information and updates or indicating more to follow.
- Reporting information to appropriate authorities.

4.1.6. **Activation Decision:** Emergency notifications will be sent without delay once a credible emergency event or threat has been confirmed, unless sending such a message will, in the professional judgment of the responsible University authorities, create a more serious emergency and/or compromise the University’s efforts to
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contain the emergency.

The following criteria must be considered to determine if activation of any or all alert system components is warranted:

4.1.6.1 Hazard Characteristics
• What is the hazard?
• What is the impact to FAU? (single building, single area on one campus, one campus, regional event)
• Is the situation under control or still ongoing?
• What is the potential for the situation to worsen?

4.1.6.2 Life Safety / Property Protection
• What is the potential for death?
• What is the potential for serious injury?
• What is the potential for minor injury?
• What is the potential for damage to property and facilities?
• What is the potential for disruption to normal course of business?

4.1.6.3 Urgency
• How soon does the message need to go out? (minutes, hours, days)
• Is there time for approval?

4.1.6.4 Audience
• Who needs to be alerted and where? (Administration, faculty, staff, students, visitors, all campuses, one campus, sector of campus, community, etc.)

4.1.6.5 Delivery Method Capabilities
• Does the delivery method have the capability to deliver an appropriate message to the appropriate audience within the necessary time frame?

4.2. Component Use and Maintenance: Several alert system components are used for normal business activities such as web pages, email, media advisories and social media. Other alert system components are used for emergency message dissemination only such as, telephone call out, text messaging and outdoor warning sirens.

Alert system components that require recipient data such as telephone call out and text messaging will be populated with data extracted from University information systems. Data extractions are performed at least weekly so that current information is available to alert system components. See Appendix 1 for FAU Alert System components.

4.3. Testing: Training and exercises are essential to demonstrating and improving the ability of FAU to execute its alerting protocols. Periodic exercises also help ensure that equipment and procedures are maintained in a constant state of readiness. Testing FAU Alert system components may help identify issues and determine functionality before an emergency occurs.

Full testing of the FAU Alert system components occurs at least twice a year. These tests are announced to the University community, key external partners, local emergency management officials and the surrounding communities.
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See Appendix 2 for Testing Schedule

Additional testing occurs as deemed necessary to evaluate particular alert system components. If possible, these tests are announced.

4.4. **Record Keeping:** Some alert system components generate reports, others do not. Records generated by alert system components are reviewed and filed. Any system that does not generate a record is monitored during a test and results sent in electronic mail format to the FAU Alert Committee. Each unit will keep system components operators’ practice logs for a period of one year. No practice records will be required for operators of systems that by normal daily business ensures functionality.

See Appendix 2 for Testing Schedule

4.5. **Training and Education:** Staff with responsibilities for activating FAU Alert System components will receive initial and periodic training in order to operate those components.

Each unit must ensure that all appropriate personnel are trained on all appropriate system components and that these system component operators practice on at least a monthly basis.

Training will be provided by the staff member’s unit as identified in Appendix 3. Multiple staff members, in multiple departments are trained in order to ensure that trained staff is always available to launch alert system components.

University administrators are kept apprised of the FAU Alert System, its capabilities, and those who can launch alert system components. Appendix 4 of this document lists those who are trained to operate the FAU Alert System components. This roster will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the FAU Alert System Committee and updated as necessary. See appendix 5 for Alert Operators Activation Checklist.

Faculty, staff and students are automatically entered into the FAU Alert System upon first being hired or enrolled in classes. Faculty, staff and students may only opt-out through the FAU Self-Service system. The University provides email and website updates which encourage faculty, staff, and students to participate and to keep their contact information current.

4.6 References:
- U.S. Public Law 110-315, Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) and Code of Federal Regulations (34CFR)
- University Policy 1.14 – Emergency Management

End of Policy
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THIS POLICY RESCINDS ALL OTHER WRITTEN DIRECTIVES REGARDING THIS TOPIC.

Approved and issued by order of:

Signature on File

_________________________________________ DATE:
Stacy Volnick
VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

POLICY MAINTENANCE SECTION

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Contact the Department of Emergency Management at em@fau.edu for appendices.