3.11.2

Physical Resources: Institutional environment

The institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community.

Judgment

☑ Compliance ☐ Partial Compliance ☐ Non-Compliance ☐ Not Applicable

Narrative

Tennessee Technological University (TTU) considers a healthy, safe, and secure environment for its constituents to be an absolute priority and critical to the fulfillment of its mission. The University has clear and effective safety measures in place, including an accredited police department and multimodal emergency information dissemination systems. Through these processes and practices, the University meets Comprehensive Standard 3.11.2 (Physical Resources: Institutional environment).

Responsibility for Health, Safety, and Security at TTU

Health, safety, and a secure environment for the University community are absolute priorities. TTU takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community including students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Multiple offices assume and share responsibilities for health, safety, and security. TTU maintains a full-service law enforcement agency (TTU Police Department [TTUPD]) [1], Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) [2], and emergency management operations. The University's proactive and effective approach to providing a healthy, safe, and secure environment is demonstrated by the University's programs and services; emergency operations plans; emergency information; and emergency preparedness, guidance, and planning [3]; and the appropriate dissemination of emergency and safety information to all members of the University community. A wide array of information is available to the University community via websites and by other disbursed materials such as classroom postings.

Safety Measures

TTU has several policies and procedures to ensure safety on campus. This information is posted on the TTUPD [1]and EHS [2] websites.

Crisis Communications Plan

TTU maintains a crisis communications plan [4] that is administered by the office of Communications and Marketing. The plan utilizes multiple streams to effectively communicate information to the campus community during crisis situations. In addition, TTU employs a multi-modal approach to emergency notification, using several different methods to inform the campus. No single approach can reach 100 percent of the campus population; therefore, the office of Communications and Marketing disperses information to the community via the TTU home page, SMS/text messaging, University email, social media, an announcement on the University's main switchboard phone line, the campus radio station, and the *Oracle* newspaper (online). The TTU Crisis Communications plan has been tested during real-world emergency notifications and has also been exercised during scenario training and periodic functionality testing. The plan is reviewed for effectiveness after each activation and is updated periodically as appropriate to ensure efficient and effective delivering of emergency information to the TTU community.

Review and Testing of Facilities and Grounds for Health and Safety Concerns

EHS has qualified staff members [5] that carry out the health and safety plans of the institution. The TTUPD [1] enforces the security plans for TTU. Training is provided to all applicable employees. As TTU has research and teaching laboratories, EHS audits these laboratories to ensure that they comply with environmental and occupational regulations [6]. These audits include separate, but integrated, inspections for general lab safety, biosafety, and radiation control.

EHS conducts fire evacuation drills in all administrative and academic campus buildings annually. All on-campus residence halls are included in a fire safety inspection program. Off-campus housing, including off-campus Greek housing, is privately owned, and is, therefore, not included in this fire inspection program. All campus building fire alarms are connected to a central monitoring system that alerts police dispatch. EHS reviews alarm activations daily to identify the cause of the alarm activation and determine when service to the alarm system is required.

The TTUPD routinely monitors the campus grounds and facilities for health and safety concerns. When officers observe a health or safety concern, the concern is documented and referred to EHS and the appropriate area of responsibility for addressing the concern. EHS also has a link with contact information [7] so anyone on campus can report a health and safety concern.

Ensuring Campus Security: TTU Police Department

The safety and security of the campus are a shared responsibility among the TTUPD and the students, faculty, and staff who make up the University community. The TTUPD provides service 24 hours a day and is an integral part of the University's dedication to developing and maintaining a safe and secure campus through the cooperative efforts of many University departments and community organizations.

TTUPD is organized as a department of 14 sworn law enforcement officers and six civilian employees [8] under the auspices of the Vice President for Student Affairs [9]. All officers are professionally trained and State of Tennessee certified, with the same authority and right to bear arms as any other officer within the State of Tennessee. By law, University police officers are declared to be law enforcement officers of the state and conservators of the peace with the right to arrest in accordance with the laws of this state any person for violation of state law or applicable county or city ordinances when such violations occur on any property or facilities that are under the guidance, supervision, and regulations of control of the Tennessee Board of Regents, except that arrests may be made off campus when pursuit originates on campus. All TTUPD law enforcement officers are certified first responders.

The Department provides a full range of police services, including, but not limited to, investigating all crimes committed in its jurisdiction, making arrests, providing crime prevention/community services programs, enforcing traffic laws, and maintaining crowd control for campus special events. The Department maintains a close liaison with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in implementing and coordinating campus law enforcement operations.

The TTUPD supports the overall academic mission of the University and plays a vital role in fulfilling that mission. Concern for the community's well-being, a desire to provide service and assistance whenever possible, and a constant desire to support the academic environment are all factors inherent in the Department's daily operations and policies. The agency is responsible for ensuring all compliance with the Federal Clery Act standard [10] [11] and all Uniform Crime Reporting [12]. Additional information, including all crime statistics [13], may be found at the TTUPD website [1].

Emergency Management

EHS is tasked with creating a culture of emergency preparedness across the University. EHS is responsible for coordinating a comprehensive, all-hazards approach through all cycles of an emergency including prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. The Higher Education Opportunity Act, 20 USC § 1092 (f)(1)(J); TBR Policy 5:01:01:18 (HR Emergency Procedures) [14]; and TBR Guideline B-100 (Institutional Emergency Preparedness Plan) [15] all require the development and maintenance of an emergency management program and Comprehensive Emergency Management plan for the University. In addition to the University-wide efforts, EHS provides guidance for departments and colleges on developing and improving their internal emergency plans as well as working with

external stakeholders at the local and state level.

Dissemination of Emergency Procedures and Other Health and Safety Related Procedures

TTU uses a variety of methods to disseminate information about emergency procedures and other health and safety information to the campus community. Through the departmental website, the TTUPD maintains information on a self-service basis, to include community awareness information, the daily crime and fire logs, public bulletins regarding criminal activity, emergency blog (gives TTU the ability to communicate if the Information Technology network is down), and emergency notifications. In addition, all TTU classrooms have posted emergency procedures [16]. This posting is also available online on the EHS website [3].

The EHS office also maintains emergency information, emergency preparedness, guidance, and planning [3] and health and safety procedures [6] online through the departmental website [2].

Conclusion

TTU maintains a healthy, safe, and secure environment for its constituents. The University has clear and effective safety measures in place, including an accredited Police Department; an Environmental Health and Safety Office; appropriate health and safety regulations and procedures; and multimodal emergency information dissemination systems. Through these processes and practices, the University demonstrates that is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.11.2.

Sources

[01] TTU University Police

[02] TTU Environmental Health and Safety

[03] TTU Emergency Operations Plan

[04] Office of Communications and Marketing Crisis Communication Plan

[05] Environmental Health and Safety Directory

[06] Environmental and Occupational Regulation Guidance Documents

[07] Reporting a Safety Concern

[08] About Tennessee Tech Police

[09] About The Vice President

[10] Clery Act Reports _ Federal Student Aid

[11] Federal Clery Act Standard

[12] Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics

[13] Campus Crime Statistics

[14] HR Emergency Procedures

[15] Institutional Emergency Preparedness Plan

[16] Classroom Safety Post