

## The DEC Page

Steven Stoeger-Moore, President

Recently, a huge container ship (the Dali) struck the support structure of the Francis Scott Key Bridge spanning the Baltimore harbor. This incident caused the complete collapse of the Key Bridge. This loss is being described as a “mass casualty event”. The use of this phrase “mass casualty event” recognizes that the bridge collapse will cause enormous repercussions. In addition to the loss of life; this event will have huge ramifications that include loss of use of the harbor, loss of a major traffic thoroughfare, loss of jobs, and business interruption to name a few examples. This scenario is estimated to bring \$4B in insurance claims (source - Lloyd’s of London).

Clearly, this is a major loss event. The ripple effect across the national economy will be significant. What can your college learn from this tragedy?

- ✓ Have a contingency/recovery plan
- ✓ Practice your plan (tabletop exercises)
- ✓ Collaborate with experts.
- ✓ Pre-identify service partners
- ✓ Inspect and assess key infrastructure
- ✓ Collaborate with local police, fire, and EMT through a MOU

For assistance with your college plan, contact Brooke Bahr.

The DMI Board is scheduled to meet in person on April 26. The action packed agenda includes the setting of rates for all DMI issued policies, except Workers’ Comp. The WCRB sets the rates by class code for Workers’ Comp. It is important to note the 07/01/2024 renewal class code 8868 decreased by 13% and class code 9101 decreased by 7%. The overall impact of these reductions in rate is approximately an 11% reduction in expected premium. Please keep in mind the decrease in premium is impacted by the college payroll by class code and the MOD factor. The other DMI rates will be announced following the Boards’ April 26th action.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming renewal, please reach out to this office.

All the best,



**Happy Earth Month**



## The Vital Role of Emergency Notification Systems and Security

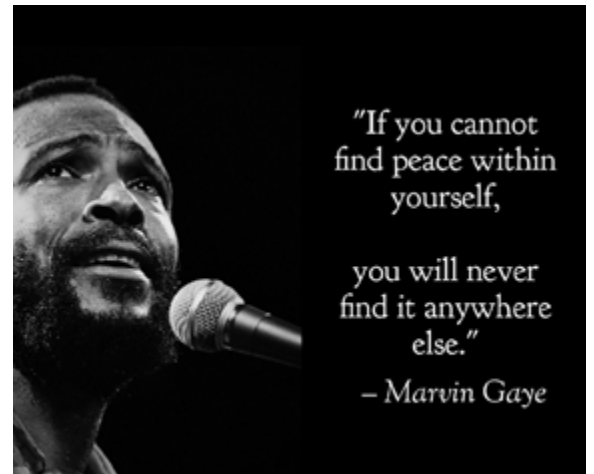
Lance Klukas, DMI Security Consultant

In today’s rapidly evolving world, ensuring the safety and security of individuals on college campuses has become an increasingly pressing concern. With the rise of unforeseen emergencies such as natural disasters, medical emergencies, or even instances of violence, it is crucial for educational institutions to implement robust emergency notification systems supported by comprehensive security measures. These systems serve as a critical lifeline, enabling swift mass communication and response during times of crisis.

### Rapid Response and Communication

In the event of an emergency, time is of the

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“If you cannot find peace within yourself,

you will never find it anywhere else.”

– Marvin Gaye

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essence. A well-designed system and policy allow for the rapid dissemination of critical information to students, employees and visitors across various channels, including text messages, emails, phone calls, digital signage, and social media platforms. See DMI's guide on **Mass Notification Standards**. By promptly alerting the campus community about imminent threats or unfolding situations, these systems empower individuals to take necessary precautions and make informed decisions to ensure their safety. It is also required by law.

### Mitigating Panic and Confusion

During chaotic situations, misinformation can worsen panic and confusion, impeding effective response efforts. An effective emergency notification system serves as a reliable source of accurate and up-to-date information, helping to dispel rumors and provide clear directives to recipients. By centralizing communication channels, these systems minimize the dissemination of false information and foster a sense of trust and confidence in the institution's ability to manage crises effectively.

### Enhancing Security Infrastructure

The efficiency of an emergency notification system is contingent upon a robust security infrastructure that

encompasses both technological solutions and campus security. Surveillance cameras, access control systems, and intrusion detection mechanisms form the backbone of physical security, enabling proactive monitoring and threat detection. Additionally, trained security staff play a pivotal role in conducting risk assessments, coordinating emergency response procedures, and providing on-the-ground support during crises. Security departments need to be given direct access to manage these systems and disseminate alerts and information quickly.

### Integration of Technology

Advancements in technology, especially AI, have revolutionized the landscape of campus security, offering innovative solutions to enhance the effectiveness of emergency notification systems. Integration with mobile applications and smart devices enables real-time alerts and geolocation notifications, allowing individuals to receive critical information regardless of their location on campus. Furthermore, the utilization of data analytics and AI facilitates predictive modeling and early warning systems, enabling proactive risk mitigation strategies.

### Community Engagement and Preparedness

Beyond the implementation of technical solutions, fostering

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## Make Fall Safety a Top Priority

*Willie Henning, DMI Environmental Health & Safety Consultant*

It may come as a surprise that the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death is falls. In 2020, 42,114 people died in falls at home and at work, according to Injury Facts. For working adults, depending on the industry, falls can be the leading cause of death.

### Hazards in the Workplace

In 2020, 805 workers died in falls, and 211,640 were injured badly enough to require days off of work. A worker doesn't have to fall from a high level to suffer fatal injuries; 136 workers were killed in falls on the same level in 2020, according to Injury Facts. Construction workers are most at risk for fatal falls from height – more than seven times the rate of other industries – but falls can happen anywhere, even at a “desk job.”

### Falls are 100% Preventable

Whether working from a ladder, roof or scaffolding, it's important to plan ahead, assess the risk and use the right equipment. First, determine if working from a height is absolutely necessary or if there is another way to do the task safely.

- Discuss the task with coworkers and determine what safety equipment is needed
- Make sure you are properly trained on how to use the equipment
- Scan the work area for potential hazards before starting the job

- Make sure you have level ground to set up the equipment
- If working outside, check the weather forecast; never work in inclement weather
- Use the correct tool for the job, and use it as intended
- Ensure stepladders have a locking device to hold the front and back open
- Always keep two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder
- Place the ladder on a solid surface and never lean it against an unstable surface
- A straight or extension ladder should be 1 foot away from the surface it rests on for every 4 feet of height and extend at least 3 feet over the top edge
- Securely fasten straight and extension ladders to an upper support
- Wear slip-resistant shoes and don't stand higher than the third rung from the top
- Don't lean or reach while on a ladder, and have someone support the bottom
- Never use old or damaged equipment; check thoroughly before use

### Fall Hazards at Home

Are you a weekend warrior or do-it-yourselfer? If you take on home improvement or other weekend projects, it's important to prepare yourself for physical exertion,

[Click here to read more](#)

**Nature is  
The future**

