

Safety & Security Sample Scenarios & Responses for Contingency Planning

GLOBAL HUB



Scenario 1

You are the faculty leader for six students traveling to multiple sites across the country. One of your students repeatedly holds up the group's departure, because she doesn't feel well. The other students seem worried about her health. Later, when you query the student about her tardiness, she reveals that she is 6-weeks pregnant. **What do you do?**

Response Strategies

- Thank the student for confiding in you and assure her that you will respect her right to medical privacy.
- Offer to contact a local physician, particularly to discuss how to cope with her morning sickness.
- Recommend the student confirm with a physician she is clear to participate in intensive physical activities.
- With the student's permission, contact UMB Student Health Center to arrange a medical consult (by telephone).
- Ask the student to develop strategies that can make the mornings easier, such as getting up earlier or sitting in the front of the bus.

Scenario 2

While hiking on a short but difficult path to a historic site, the faculty leader slips and falls at least 40 feet into the ravine below. The students debate whether someone should attempt to assist but decide that the terrain is too treacherous. **What happens now?**

Response Strategies

The back-up leader should take control of the situation and:

- Create an Emergency Action Plan with a map of the area and the contact information and procedures for reaching authorities and getting assistance.
- Send two students to seek help.
- Stay behind with the rest of the group and await assistance; do not let students attempt the descent into the ravine.
- Maintain communication with the faculty leader, as possible.
- Follow the instructions of the emergency response personnel when they arrive.
- As soon as it is feasible, contact UMB to report the incident using the [International Safety & Security Incident Hotline](#).

Scenario 3

Violent riots against the government break out in the city where your international program resides. There is extensive international media coverage, but the activity is not near your group, and you do not consider your students to be in any danger. **Should you do anything?**

Response Strategies

- Yes, even though your students are safe, the extensive news coverage of the incidents may make UMB officials and families nervous. Therefore, contact the UMB duty officer via the [International Safety & Security Incident Hotline](#) to confirm your status.
- Follow up with email as soon as practical.
- Encourage students to phone or email loved ones to reassure them that they are not in harm's way.
- If the situation persists, maintain close communications with UMB.

Scenario 4

A student on your program complains of extreme intestinal discomfort, so you arrange for her to see a local physician that you have used in the past. She admits the student to the local hospital for routine tests but assures you that it is “probably nothing serious.” **Do you inform UMB of the hospitalization?**

Response Strategies

- Yes, UMB must be informed any time a student is hospitalized outside the United States. UMB can advise on how to manage the situation and can work with the student's family should the situation become more serious.
- [International SOS](#) must be notified as soon as possible of any hospitalization abroad.
- UMB can provide other worried parents with accurate information (while protecting the medical privacy of the affected student).

Scenario 5

One morning before class, several bombs go off in quick succession on local buses in the downtown area. This is near the route your students take to get from their residence hall to their classes. Emergency vehicles, members of the media with TV cameras, and panicked residents flood the streets. **What do you do?**

Response Strategies

- Locate and account for all students. Make sure they are safe, or if involved in the incident, that they are receiving appropriate care.
- Contact UMB's [International Safety & Security Incident Hotline](#) to confirm the status of the group and your present location. UMB will inform the community, parents, and the media as needed.
- Contact and get advice from the nearest U.S. Embassy/Consulate.
- Consider the impact of the attack on the availability of food, water, and medical supplies, as well as on the location of the group and travel.
- When the situation stabilizes, help the students to get access to counseling or other services.
- Maintain communication with UMB until the situation is resolved.

Scenario 6

It is the late afternoon and there are no scheduled program activities, so your students are on their own. You receive a call on your mobile phone from the local police, who tell you that your phone number was found in the wallet of a young man who was struck and killed by a commuter train. They are asking you to come to the hospital to identify the body. **What do you do?**

Response Strategies

- Try to establish the identity of the student and gather as much information as possible from the police about the circumstances of the student's death.
- Contact UMB's [International Safety & Security Incident Hotline](#) to activate crisis response procedures.
- Go to the hospital and cooperate with the police in the identification of the deceased.
- Contact UMB again to provide any new information. UMB will notify the student's designated "Emergency Contact."
- Develop a plan to provide support to the other program participants.
- Be sure to take care of your own emotional needs. Ask UMB for assistance in arranging your own grief counseling.

International Operations is here to help!

Now that you've had a chance to think through some sample emergency scenarios and response strategies, reach out to International Operations to discuss your specific program and activities and collaborate on response contingencies. Reach out to us at globalhub@umaryland.edu.