

Tabletop Exercise Notes
Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee
Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 3 p.m., SGA Chambers

Committee Chair Chief Les Jackson called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. Committee members in attendance included Susan Breer, Sheena Burgreen, Cindy Conlon, Michelle Eubanks, Dr. Amanda Hitt, Ethan Humphres, Dr. Kimberly Minges, Mackenzie Mwaura, Julie Taylor, Wesley Tidwell (EMA), Dr. KC White, and Angela Zwissler.

Others present were UNA Police Department members Camden Bowen, Bill Burke, Daniel Gomez, Dominick Gomez, Yvonne Judge, and Sgt. Greg Kirby; from Alabama EMA Elizabeth Foster; from Florence Police Department Chad Breedwell and Robbie Howard; from Florence Fire Department Jason Kelley and Jarrod Wallace; from Lauderdale 911 Susanne King, John Rochester, and Heath Bennett; and from Lifeguard EMS Patrick Sartain.

Scenario: Bomb Threat in the Commons and Emergency Response Elicits Social Media Rumors of Tainted Food at Campus Eatery

Exercise Leader: Wesley Tidwell, Florence-Lauderdale EMA

The group discussed how to respond to a bomb threat called in to the Gunn Commons that warned against any police response or evacuation of the building. University officials shared what actions they would take to ensure the safety of the campus community and keep the public aware, as necessary, while helping to extinguish the threat. Additionally, they discussed how to handle related social media rumors at the same time.

The Florence Police Department's bomb and K-9 unit officers discussed how they would conduct a search, how staff familiar with the area could help identify things out of place, and how the bomb unit would sweep the area for secondary devices.

The Florence Fire Department and Lifeguard Ambulance officials gave overviews of how they would handle the incident, secure the scene, and set up triage areas.

Florence-Lauderdale EMA and 911 officials discussed how UNA officials should reach 911 and who would respond and how they would notify other entities.

The group also discussed who would authorize the all-clear if no incendiary device was found and how to handle post-event messaging.

Finally, SEPC discussed what challenges or gaps were identified during this exercise.

Communication is the most important thing when dealing with emergency situations.

The exercise ended at 3:55 p.m.