



# Emergency Management Newsletter

USAG Rheinland-Pfalz  
2nd Quarter Newsletter

Jan - Mar 2020

## *Winter isn't coming, it's already here!*

A winter storm occurs when there is significant precipitation and the temperature is low enough that precipitation forms as sleet or snow, or when rain turns to ice. A winter storm can range from freezing rain and ice, to moderate snowfall over a few hours, to a blizzard that lasts for several days. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and have the ability to induce power outages that can last for days. They can make roads and walkways dangerous or impassable and close or limit critical community services. Winter weather can effect multiple USAG RO installations around Germany so no matter where you reside, it is important to take all necessary precautions and remain proactive in the winter months. Just as we encourage individuals to do during all natural disaster seasons, it is important to create and establish an emergency supply kit prior to the event of a severe winter storm. The following is a short list of recommended supplies for the home:

- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight
- Medication
- Non-perishable Food Items
- Bottled Water
- Blankets
- Warm Clothing
- Weather Radio
- Batteries
- Ice-melt/snow shovels

It is important to remember that in an emergency, relationships matter. Talk with your neighbors, family, friends, and caregivers about what you will need in an emergency and how you will communicate with each other. Write down your plans and contact information and make sure everyone in your support system has a printed copy. Individuals and families may not have all necessary emergency supplies on hand, but when people work together, they can pool resources from one another and solve common problems as a team (such as buying bulk items affordably or solving storage needs). For more information regarding winter weather safety and family preparations, visit <https://www.ready.gov/winter>



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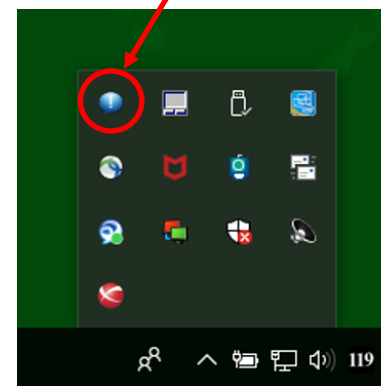
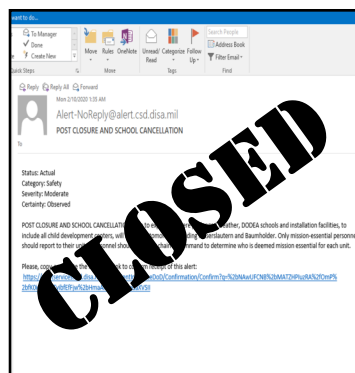
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## **ALERT! Yourself**

Stay in the know when winter weather could effect your daily plans by registering in the ALERT! system. Taking the place of AtHoc, this system is provided to USAG RP soldiers, civilians, and family members to remain knowledgeable on real world and exercise disaster/emergency situations, road conditions, delayed reporting, and post/school closures. CAC holders can register by locating the blue circle at the bottom right corner of their desktop and completing the required information. CAC holders can add family members to their registration card by selecting the "Add Phone" or "Add Email" options. Non-CAC holders employed on USAG RP installations can send their information to the Garrison Emergency Manager, Mrs. Ashley Bryles, at [ashley.d.bryles.civ@mail.mil](mailto:ashley.d.bryles.civ@mail.mil) for manual input.

It is required for ALL CAC holders to input their email address at a minimum but highly encouraged for all members to input their local cell phone number to receive ALERTS! outside of normal business hours.

With winter still lurking around the corner, it is always best to remain informed, prepared, and involved!



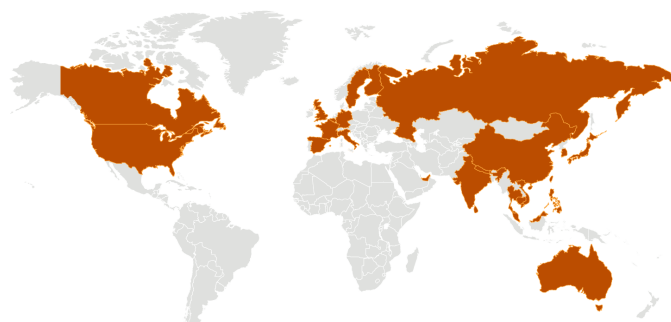
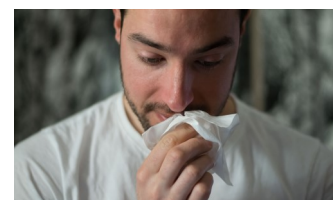
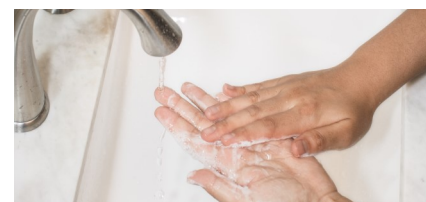


## **Flu Season; what you need to know.**

As most people know, the winter months are typically the most threatening when it comes to illnesses such as the flu. Unfortunately, this winter brought on a new flu-like virus that is slowly traveling world-wide. The recent outbreak known as Coronavirus (COVID-19) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province in December 2019. Since then, the virus has spread to 28 countries, including Germany. Due to its widespread dissemination and threat to third world countries, the Health and Human Services (HHS) has declared Coronavirus a public health emergency. The virus is currently known to spread from person to person via droplets (e.g. coughing and sneezing) but everyone is encouraged to take precautions with or without flu like symptoms.

### **Preventative Actions:**

- Report to your local clinic to receive a flu vaccine, if you have not already done so
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you are sick, keep your distance to protect others
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Wear a protective mask while sick and/or while on public transportation such as a plane, train, or bus.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often to protect from germs.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Practice other healthy habits such as plenty of rest, working out, manage stress levels, drink plenty of fluids, and maintain a well-balanced diet.



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html#map>

**Emergency Management is nothing to joke about**



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## **Australia bush fires “Contained”**

Since September 2019, bush fires in Australia have continued to blaze while responders and volunteers worked tirelessly to extinguish them. During this course, the fires have destroyed more than 2,500 homes to include wildlife habitats and have consumed the lives of 33 known people and millions of animals. The fires initially started due to record-breaking temperatures, high

winds, and months of severe drought which in-turn caused dry lands and increased the risk of wildfires. The worst of the fires were known to be in New South Wales and Victoria but due to the recent surge of rain storms and flooding, the fires have been contained and are still slowly dying off. Due to the large human, animal, and property suffering, the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Scott Morrison, has acknowledged the grave need for unprecedented action. He recently called 3,000 Australian Defense Force reservists to duty which mobilized naval ships and military bases to aid in the emergency response. This entire disaster has shown Australia that their Emergency Management Program in its entirety needed an overhaul. Prime Minister Morrison called for a rewrite of the emergency management plan to include a large, nationally mobile, fully funded, and paid workforce vice the under-resourced volunteers they have used during this response. We can all learn a lesson from the bush fires and take note that preparation *before* a disaster can potentially decrease the probability of loss of property, environment, and life. It is imperative to have a sound plan, exercise the plan, and make necessary changes to protect the community!

## **What's new in Emergency Management**

OPORD 19-024, *Installation Management Command-Europe (IMCOM-E), Garrison Incident Management System (IMS)* was recently developed to ensure compliance and consistency with Presidential, DoD, and Army directives to help provide IMCOM-E Garrisons with an incident management system that is consistent with a single, comprehensive approach to incident management. The objective is to ensure the garrisons can establish and sustain the capability to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover from an all-hazards event that effects the installation and its communities while enabling mission assurance. The goal of this system is life safety, preservation of resources and environment, and mission continuation. Since there are limited resources in Europe, the garrisons have significant risk to exhaust their capabilities in the event an incident extends multiple operational periods. With that begin said, we must increase the capability for garrisons to mutually support each other and work together by standardizing functions and operations.

The IMS establishes three main tasks; standardize capabilities, standardize training requirements, and standardize products. In doing so, the Garrison Emergency Managers will be able to develop a standardized Emergency Management Program across the board. This will include developing plans that assist the Garrison in emergency functions. At a minimum, these plans include the Installation Emergency Management Plan, Facility Emergency Action Plan, Crisis Communication Plan, Mass Care Plan, and Emergency Family Assistance Center Plan.

Emergency Management is EVERYONE's responsibility. In order to reach mass populace, the Garrison Emergency Managers will utilize a team of appointed Emergency Management Representatives within the Garrison, to include tenant units, to assist with tasks such as providing unit capabilities, disseminating quarterly EM Newsletters, coordinating their building's Emergency Action Plan and Shelter-in-Place area, and ensuring their unit is fully informed and ready for future emergencies/disasters.

### **Garrison Emergency Management Contacts**

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For more information on Emergency Management and what to do before, during, and after any disasters or emergencies, please contact your Garrison Emergency Management Office. We can provide tools, resources, and outreach education upon request.

