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## Behind-the-Scenes of the Emergency Drill

Inside Ole Miss

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## Behind-the-Scenes of the Emergency Drill

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 JULY 1, 2013 BY [INSIDE OLE MISS](#)



OXFORD, Miss. – While UM faculty and staff might not have heard a loud explosion on Wednesday, smoke filled the north end zone of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium as dozens of university, city and county officials worked to respond to a simulated emergency situation.

The exercise, led by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, marked the first time the agency has run such a large-scale drill at a university. About 50 actors in full makeup played the role of Ole Miss fans injured during the simulated 20-pound propane tank explosion.

"[Exercises like this] help the right hand know what the left hand is doing," said Todd Demuth, exercise officer with MEMA's Office of Preparedness. "You do exercises like this to find corrective actions in your response system and to update your emergency preparedness plan."

At 9 a.m., smoke rose from the bleachers to signal the beginning of the exercise.

Representatives from university, Oxford and Lafayette County fire and law enforcement agencies, as well as emergency medical technicians, worked for the next hour and a half to clear the area, respond to the situation and transport victims to Baptist Memorial Hospital. Two actors were transported via helicopter, while nearly a dozen were taken to the hospital in ambulances.

The UM public relations department, along with journalism students, acted as media on the scene and at the hospital. Lee Tyner, university chief of staff, and Kyle Campbell, assistant athletics director for media and public relations, fielded questions from the group as part of a simulated press conference an hour into the event.

"In a situation of that nature, we know the university is going to have to develop a response quickly," said public relations director Danny Blanton. "We wanted to make sure that we had fully thought through how we would conduct ourselves in that situation and how well we could prepare spokespeople from the university and athletics to respond quickly and accurately."

During a debriefing session after the simulation, city, county and university participants reviewed responses and identified opportunities for improvements. Demuth said the exercise was a success for all parties involved.

"I thought it went wonderfully," he said. "It's not a successful exercise if we don't find corrective actions. Most of those actions were self-identified."

**WARNING: Makeup on actors may appear graphic. The injuries are not real.**

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### Students Learn 'Real Politics' in Washington, D.C., Winter Session

OXFORD, Miss. – Eleven University of Mississippi students spent their winter break learning about the people who work behind the scenes of the American government in Washington, D.C. Lead by Jonathan Klingler, assistant professor of political science, the students of Pol 391: Applied Politics met not with candidates, but with the people who make candidates'

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OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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### Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to abate. The Federal Reserve's

For a behind-the-scenes look at the drill, view the photo gallery by clicking the photo below. Click to cycle through the photos.



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