



DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

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DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY & SECURITY

"Committed to providing a safe environment for the pursuit of academic excellence in the spirit of community responsibility."

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Clery Act Compliance Summary – Shelter-in-Place Exercise 2025

In coordination with other emergency agencies as applicable, Dartmouth conducts annual emergency management and response drills and exercises to test emergency procedures such as tabletop exercises, field exercises, and tests of the emergency notification systems on campus. The scenarios for these exercises change from year-to-year and include many departments from across the campus. Past exercises have included campus health crises, active shooter situations, bomb threats and weather emergencies. These tests, which may be announced or unannounced, are designed to assess and evaluate the emergency plans and capabilities of the institution. Each test is documented and includes a description of the exercise, the date and time of the exercise, and whether it was announced or unannounced. Below is a summary of our latest July 2025 Exercise.

Beginning in July 2024, Dartmouth's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) sought to conduct an exercise to test available trainings in shelter-in-place procedures which can be used to protect individual/s from types of emergencies where it is safer to remain indoors. An on campus active shooter scenario was selected in August 2024 after conferring with representatives from across campus in Dartmouth's Emergency Planning Group (EPG) and the Police Department (HPD) and Fire Department (HFD) from the Town of Hanover. Dartmouth OEM continued to update and seek guidance from EPG, HPD & HFD through the rest of the planning process while calling on regional partners from across New Hampshire and Vermont to aid in exercise operations and evaluation.

On July 18, 2025, Dartmouth OEM facilitated a multi-agency full-scale exercise testing local responders and the community's response to an active shooter scenario on campus. The exercise design team focused on three main objectives: the subjugation of an active threat/the clearance of a building of additional threats, the response to injured building occupants & those sheltering in place, and the provision of crisis information to the community by public affairs personnel. For safety reasons, the pre-selected building and the neighboring major roadways were temporarily closed during the duration of the exercise. Dartmouth Safety & Security (DoSS) Officers that were not actively participating in the exercise were posted nearby redirecting vehicle and foot traffic in and around the building. The closed areas were reopened and resumed normal operations at the conclusion of exercise.

Though the main objectives were ultimately accomplished, several areas of improvement were identified across all three main objectives. The identified areas of improvement revolve around joint operations, interagency communications, and organizational preparedness. Each agency is responsible for addressing the identified areas of improvement to ensure our community is prepared to respond to these types of emergencies.