According to a 2009 survey by Campus Safety Magazine, 78 percent of higher education respondents cited the mass shootings in 2007 at Virginia Tech and in 2008 at Northern Illinois University as incidents that had the most impact on security and safety on college campuses. Educational institutions hold a commitment to the safety and general welfare of their students and an obligation to provide appropriate levels of security to promote their safety. In addition, parents, students, teachers and administrators look for an extra degree of security.

Overall, most educational institutions conduct safety and security audits that result in changes to security and safety-related policies, procedures or systems on campus. Emergency notification and broadcast alert systems are now commonplace on college campuses. These systems enable mass notification to faculty, staff and students via text or e-mail messages to mobile communication devices.

Video surveillance systems cameras in outdoor areas also provide a heightened sense of security on many campuses. Such systems can enable lockdown procedures from a remote location in the event of an emergency.

Today, some university campuses are going high-tech to help fight crime, installing campus security systems that seamlessly integrate a variety of technologies using open architecture design standards. These systems provide advanced access control, alarm monitoring, digital video, photo ID badging and visitor management functionality, all from a single software platform.

Although the vulnerabilities vary, most campuses accept a four-phased approach to emergency management:

- Preparedness: Emergency response plans define how the campus will respond to emergencies
- Mitigation and prevention: Risk assessments and implementation of preventive security measures reduce or prevent the possibility of disaster on campus
Response: This element illustrates how the campus reacts to disaster, including crisis communication and the treatment and protection of key assets, from university students and personnel to critical information systems and university property.

Recovery: The timely resumption of standard operating procedures on campus, including moving from “disaster” mode to “normal” mode through treatment, rebuilding, reorganization, and recovery.

Learn more about protecting your students

For more information about preparing your campus for an emergency, please contact a professional security consultant in your area by calling 888.758.9823 or fill out the Contact Us form on our website at allegion.com.