Campuses are fairly safe places most of the time, but occasionally emergencies do happen. Plan ahead to be in the best position to keep yourself safe during emergencies.

All SUNY campuses have Emergency Response Plans to address response to a wide array of emergencies. Contact your campus Emergency Management Office or campus Police or Public Safety to get more details on your campus plans. You should also consider the information available from local community authorities, New York State and the federal government at Ready.gov. You may even want to participate in a NYS Citizen Preparedness Corp program. The NYS Citizen Preparedness Corp, or a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), may offer free training courses for residents to have tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly, and help their neighbors recover as quickly as possible.

Some specific actions to consider:

1. Enroll in your campus or community alert system (e.g., NY-Alert, Rave) so that you get timely messages about conditions on campus. Keep your contact info up to date.

2. Learn how to perform CPR and First Aid. Many campuses offer opportunities, or you can reach out to the local American Red Cross or American Heart Association.

3. Donate blood.

4. Participate in all emergency drills, including fire drills. Take workshops on life safety and emergencies that may be offered at your campus, or even in your Res Hall. The NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control has a series of publications addressing Campus Fire Safety.

5. If you have special needs, be prepared to take care of yourself for a few days. Plan ahead to have adequate medication on hand. Work with your campus disabilities office to make sure that you can remain safe during emergencies.

And always, during an emergency, pay attention to and follow directions sent in messages from trusted sources such as campus Emergency Management, Police, or Public Safety.