

Enhancing Campus Safety: OTECH Adopts the *Standard Response Protocol* and Improves Emergency Alerts



The Ogden–Weber Technical College (OTECH) has implemented the nationally recognized Standard Response Protocol (SRP)—developed by the *I Love U Guys® Foundation*—as part of a college-wide effort to strengthen campus safety and streamline emergency communication. In addition, OTECH has updated its emergency alert system notifications to ensure the timely delivery of critical safety information to students, faculty, and staff.

These improvements support modern active-threat response programs and align OTECH with standardized procedures used nationwide. By adopting proven, familiar language and enhancing our alerting technology, OTECH aims to reduce response time and ensure the campus community can act quickly and confidently during an emergency.

Why OTECH Adopted the Standard Response Protocol

One of the most compelling reasons for using the SRP is its widespread familiarity. Many OTECH students have encountered the protocol—including terms such as “*Lockdown*”—during K–12 drills or real emergencies. Continuing this familiar language in a higher-education environment builds on prior knowledge and helps reduce confusion during a critical incident. This is particularly beneficial at OTECH, where a high school operates directly on our campus.

However, a higher-education setting presents unique challenges. Unlike K–12 environments, college campuses are open, dynamic, and populated by adults who move independently throughout the day. This model requires clear, concise guidance that supports individual decision-making. The SRP provides exactly that—simple, action-oriented instructions that can be applied across a wide range of locations and situations.

The SRP also promotes consistent communication between OTECH and our partners in law enforcement, fire, EMS, and dispatch, all of whom already use this shared language. This improves coordination during emergencies and enhances overall response effectiveness.

Research shows that people often hesitate when first confronted with a threat. Familiar, memorable directives—like “Stop, Drop, and Roll” or “Drop, Cover, and Hold On”—help reduce this hesitation. The SRP is designed with this behavioral principle in mind, offering recognizable actions that support a faster, more confident response.

The Five Standard Response Protocol Actions

During most emergencies on campus, OTECH may direct students, faculty, and staff to take one of the following protective actions:

- “Hold — In your room or area.”

Used when emergency personnel need a hallway or area cleared to resolve a situation that does not pose a threat to others in the building.

- “Secure — Get or stay inside. Lock outside doors.”

Used when a threat is outside the building or elsewhere on campus. All outdoor entrances should be secured while individuals remain indoors until an “All Clear” is issued.

- “Lockdown — Locks, lights, out of sight.”

Used when a threat is inside a building. Lock or barricade doors, turn off lights, silence phones, and remain out of sight. Follow OTECH’s lockdown procedures.

- “Evacuate — To a safer location.”

Used when individuals must relocate due to a hazard. Most evacuations will lead to outdoor assembly points, though some situations may require moving to an alternate area.

- “Shelter — Followed by an announced hazard and instructions.”

Used for events such as earthquakes, severe weather, or hazardous material releases. Directions will vary depending on the threat.

In an emergency, a Campus Safety Officer or other first responder may issue one or more of these protective actions. These directions will also be communicated through OTECH’s Informacast emergency alert system.

Emergency Alert System Upgrades

OTECH has updated its InformaCast alert system to incorporate the new SRP terminology and enhance the clarity of emergency messaging. Using consistent language reduces confusion and helps the campus community act more quickly during time-sensitive situations.

These updates will improve both the speed and reach of campuswide notifications, ensuring that more recipients receive critical alerts across multiple platforms.

Implementation at OTECH

While the SRP is widely used in K–12 schools, its application on a college campus requires adaptation. OTECH's environment is larger, more complex, and more independent than a traditional school setting. Alerts will include, whenever possible, the type of hazard, its potential impact, the time and location (if known), and the specific protective action to take.

During fast-moving incidents, however, not every detail may be immediately available. The OTECH community is encouraged to rely on official communications delivered through campus channels rather than unverified information posted on personal social media accounts.

Throughout the year, OTECH will continue implementing safety improvements and updating the campus community as enhancements are made. Emergency drills and posters will also reflect the new SRP terminology and procedures.

The Campus Safety Office encourages all students, faculty, and staff to familiarize themselves with these updates and review available safety resources.

For more information, please visit: [Campus Safety page](#)