February: Earthquake Preparedness

One of the most frightening and destructive phenomena of nature is a severe earthquake and its terrible aftershocks.

An earthquake is the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth, caused by the breaking and shifting of subterranean rock as it releases strain that has accumulated over a long time.

Here are a few quick tips:

- Please large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Fasten shelves securely to walls.
- Secure your water heater, refrigerator, furnace and gas appliances by strapping them to the wall studs and bolting to the floor.
- Locate safe spots in each room under a table or against an inside wall.

The Man “Behind The One” Who Started It All

Deputy Chief Paul Creekmore, one of the agency’s founding members has served faithfully at Chief Salatino’s side for the past seven years. Deputy Chief Creekmore was the assistant director of campus safety at North Central College and a police sergeant for the Naperville Park District before coming to Benedictine University. A place he has come to call home.

When Creekmore was initially hired, there was no deputy chief position and he was hired as the day shift Sergeant, supervising officers, dispatchers and student employees. He was charged with developing agency policy, procedures, forms, programs and a student employee corps. Later he was charged with developing community newsletters, a more comprehensive set of policies, known as general orders to bring us closer to our municipal counterparts. He also created and implemented an officer recognition system.

He successfully penned and amended the Illinois Private Campus Police Act to enhance private University police agencies abilities to serve their communities.

Later, when the Springfield branch opened, he provided policies, general orders and forms to the Springfield Chief of Campus Police. He then designed the current University Police Station located in the parking garage. He developed the idea for a Problem Oriented Policing Unit and appointed its supervisor (a unit which has been largely successful “due to the talents of the officers on the unit,” in reducing alcohol and drug violations over the years). Deputy Chief Creekmore acquired a retired military Humvee which was converted into a mobile communications center, mostly through donations.

Deputy Chief Creekmore created employee committees to give the officers and staff a say in the decision making process to continue moving the agency forward. He served as accreditation manager, during the process where the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program inspected every facet of BenU Police. The agency was granted State Accreditation as a law enforcement agency.

On 01/17/13, Deputy Chief Creekmore graduated from the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, School of Police Staff and Command.

He is the first Benedictine University Police Officer to attend the program. Benedictine University Police hopes to send more of its supervisors and managers to the program to add continued professionalism and expertise to the agency.
**SHIFT MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITION**

BenU PD conducts a marksmanship competition every year. This year the Day Shift “B” team scored highest overall in the competition.

Faculty, Staff and Students hit the “countertop” gridiron to see who was the FFL MVP. There were no special divisions; it was simply skill vs. skill. This event was implemented by BenU PD Sgt. Lloyd Popp who emcee’d the event. Event officiators were Athletic Director Mark McHorney and AVP for Student Affairs, Marco Masini.

Numerous officers attained Marksmanship Awards for various levels of competency in marksmanship. Firearms training coordinator, Deputy Chief Creekmore presented the awards.

Officer Training Awards

Sgt. Popp (Pistol Master)

Ofc. Keica (Pistol Sharpshooter)

Ofc. Tinsely (Pistol Sharpshooter)

Sgt. Ferguson (Pistol Marksman)

Sgt. Rizzi (Pistol Marksman)

Sgt. Sawyer (Pistol Marksman)