

# *The Grand Finale: An Unplanned Independence Day Explosion*

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University of Nevada, Reno

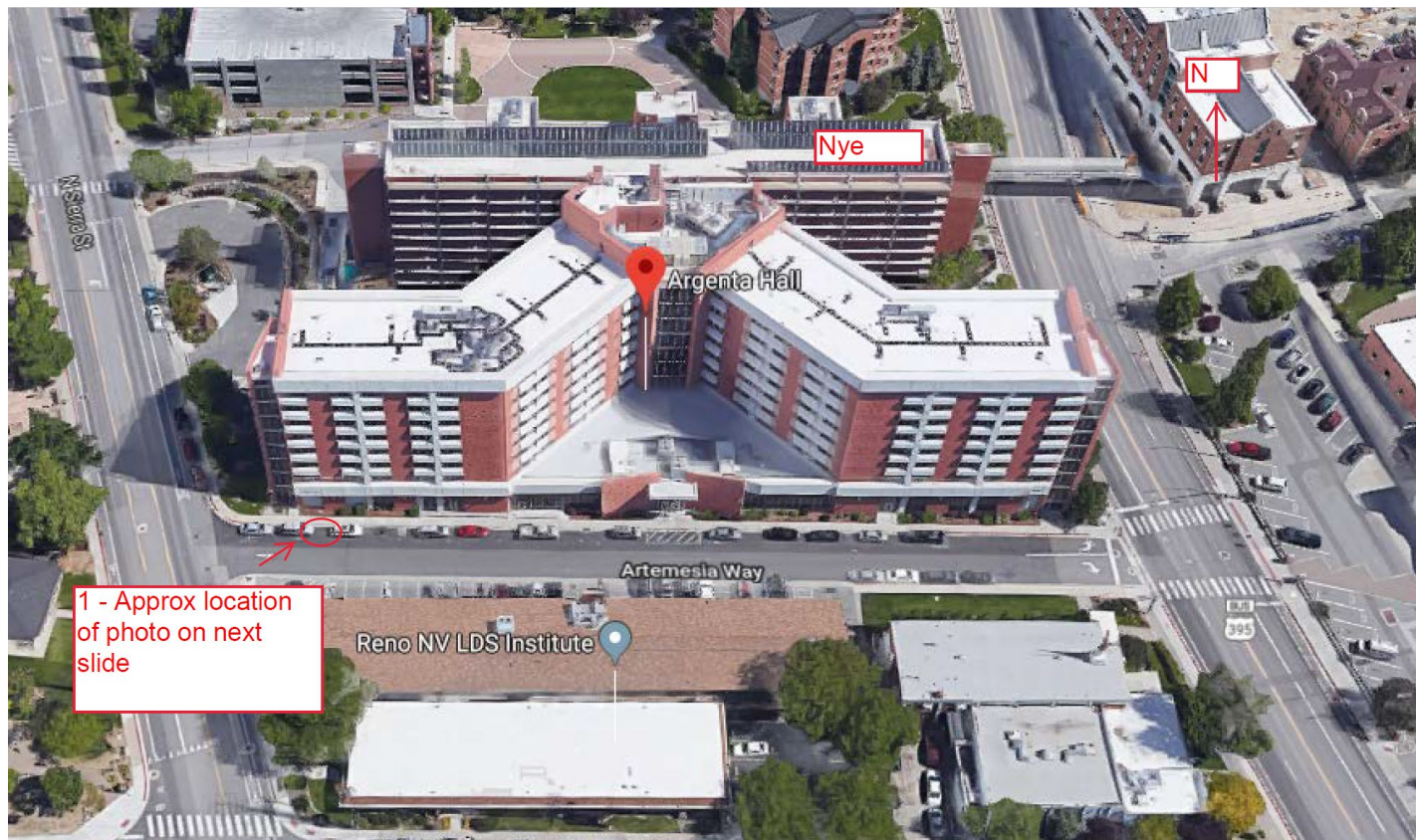
# Argenta Incident

- July 5, 2019, approximately 1 p.m.
- Explosion in boiler room of Argenta Hall triggering an automatic fire/police response due to activation of fire suppression system
- Approximately 10-12 minutes later massive explosion occurred
- Regional mutual aid and mass casualty plan were activated

Screen Shot of video taken moments after utilities explosion. Destiny Iwuajoku, provided to the RGJ







1 - Approx location  
of photo on next  
slide



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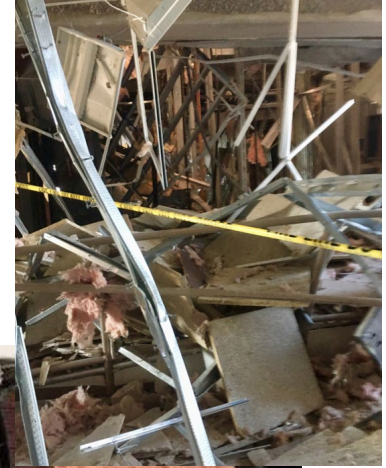
# Incident Command System

- Rapid establishment of Unified Command
- Span of control and transition of leadership
- Regional Dispatch model: efforts to coordinate and deploy resources and equipment, radio traffic and call volume expanded, operational coordination
- Community support from the Governor, Mayor and major public agencies to individual donations



# UNR Issues Management Team

- Provided strategic oversight to support onsite responders
- Identified, prioritized and managed additional issues resulting from the crisis, such as personnel accountability, public Information and property reunification
- Continue essential functions: Dining, Housing and Human Resources





# Investigations and Public relations

- Fire Marshal conducts all residential hall inspections and concludes this to be “an isolated incident within the boiler room.”
- Investigation concluded that University has no history of previous boiler maintenance violations and is up to date in its schedule of regular state-mandated inspections.







# Immediate Action Plan

- Assessing damaged and surrounding structures
- Initiating clean-up and shoring efforts
- Relocate 200 students and reunify property
- Securing housing for 1,300 students
- Securing dining capacity up to 20,000 meals per week
- Additional security, shuttle and ambassador services
- Counseling services and EAP







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# WOLF PACK TOWER

## BUILDING DIRECTORY

### GROUND FLOOR

Main Entrance • Front Desk • Bike Storage • Bus Pickup

### 2ND FLOOR

Academic Mentor Study Room • Convenience Store • Breakfast Room •  
Multi-Purpose Room • Assistant Director Office • UNRPD Substation

### 3RD FLOOR

Resident Director Offices • Laundry Room • Multi-Purpose Room •  
Vending/Ice Machines

### WOLF PACK BUS

Buses will run daily from Wolf Pack Tower to two on campus locations.  
Pick up/Dropoff will happen on the Ground Floor of Wolf Pack Tower  
(West St.), Jot Travis Building  
and Joe Crowley Student  
Union running on a 15-minute  
nonstop loop.

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

**Monday - Friday:** 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

**Saturday:** 10 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

**Sunday:** 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.



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# “The Den”

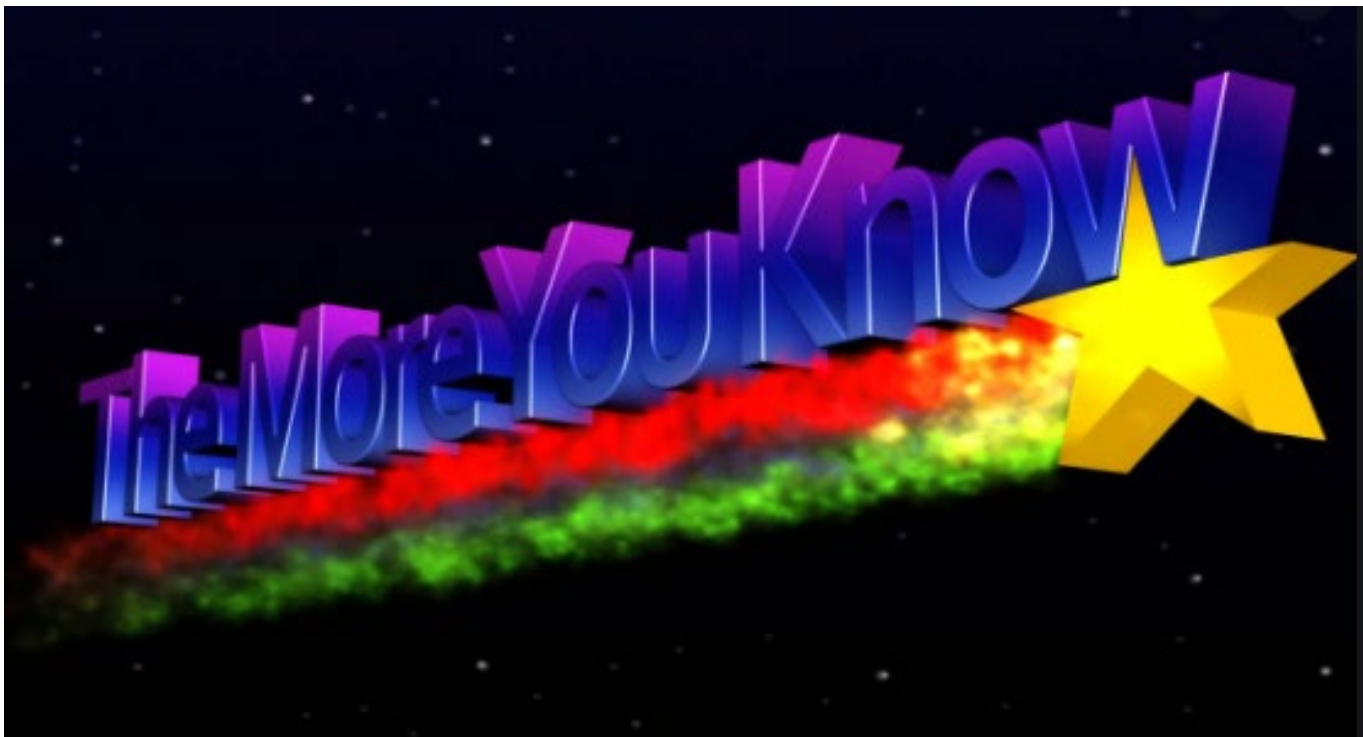


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# Nye & Argenta



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# Pre-Incident Preparations

- Trainings
  - Staff/Student preparedness and evacuation drills
  - University Police Services exercises and drills (including regional trainings)
  - Regional Emergency Operations Center exercises/integration
  - University of Nevada, Reno Issues Management Team
    - FEMA courses
    - University wide semi-annual tabletop exercises
    - Continuity of operations
    - Special event tabletop exercises
    - Department of Homeland Security National Seminar for Institutions of Higher Education
- All Hazard and Continuity Planning - Succession Planning



# Post-Incident Lessons Learned

- Defined clear roles:
  - Police and Emergency Management – Immediate response
  - Executive Leadership and General Counsel – expedite decisions, contracts, etc.
  - Risk Management – claim management
  - Other key areas: Marketing & Communications, Planning & Construction, EH&S, others
- Risk Management experience:
  - Rely on your resources: MARSH, MHEC, Crawford and various vendors
  - Inspections and recordkeeping
  - Anticipate delays (contracting, weather outside of NV, COVID, long lead items)
  - Communication and transparency
  - Time and priorities management
  - Contract process review, from RFPs through vendor onboarding





# The Last Question



# Thank You!

- Any Questions?
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