

Crime Prevention in Changing Times

Crime Prevention Week - November 1st to 7th, 2017

Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility



Safety on Campus

College and university campuses offer not only an environment for learning, but also a fun place to meet new friends, have new experiences and gain independence. Many college/university campuses are a micropolitan of the cities they are located in and are not immune from safety and security issues that are found in their communities. While safety and security is a priority for universities, colleges and other post-secondary institutions, everyone plays a role in keeping the learning environment safe and secure..

General Safety on Campus

- Every school has a Campus Safety or security office. Familiarize yourself with your post-secondary institution's safety and security programs.
- Be aware of emergency telephones, which are located throughout the campus. Load emergency phone numbers into your phone.
- Report incidents of concerning, threatening, inappropriate, or violent behaviour to Security Services or the police. Contact Security Services immediately if you notice a suspicious person, behaviour or package on campus.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Do not be distracted by your cell phone or other portable devices.
- If you see someone being victimized, immediately notify the campus security or call 911. Intervene if safe.

Protecting your Valuables

- Do not leave valuables like laptops or phones unattended. Password protect mobile devices to keep them secure and install location tracking software on each device to assist in locating it if lost or stolen. Consider using a laptop lock or cable lock for extra protection.
- Consider marking your property or valuables with an identifiable mark, such as a drivers' licence or student number. Inventory, noting descriptions, brand, model and serial numbers and take pictures of your property. Keep this list in a safe place.
- Lock it or Lose it: Use high-quality, durable bike locks. Find a sturdy and anchored bike rack, pole, or object to secure your bike to. Secure your whole bike by removing the front wheel and locking both wheels together with the frame. Consider engraving an identifying number to the bike frame and register your bike with a bike registry program.
- Do not leave valuable in vehicles. Park in secure, well lit areas. Always lock doors and close windows. Steering wheel locks provide good visual deterrents preventing against theft of the vehicle.



Safety in Residences

- Familiarize yourself with emergency phones located within your residence building. Familiarize yourself with emergency exits and what to do during an emergency.
- Get to know your roommates and neighbors. It will give you a sense of community and a safety net, as you will have a larger group of people who will care about your well-being.
- Always lock up your dorm or apartment before going out, even if you're planning on only being gone a few minutes. If you live on the ground floor, close your windows and either shut the blinds or hide your valuables in drawers any time you leave.
- Do not wedge open doors that are locked or require swipe card access.
- Be cautious of others following you into your residence building. Require callers to identify themselves before opening your door. If you see a stranger in your dorm, ask them who they are and if you can help them. Have them wait outside the dorm while you go and find the person they are looking for. If in doubt, contact security services or the police.
- Do not label your keys or access cards. Report lost or stolen keys and access cards immediately to security/campus services.



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Safety on Campus

Around and About on Campus

- Whenever you leave town or class, make sure you know where you're heading and how to get there.
- If you're in an unfamiliar area, don't use headphones or be distracted by your phone, focus on finding your destination.
- Walk with confidence. If studying or working late into the evening, walk with a friend or co-worker, if possible. Familiarize yourself with well lit routes on campus and avoid walking alongside shrubs or bushes. Most campuses offer Safe Walk Services. Contact your Campus Security Office to learn about how to access this service.
- If you feel you are being followed, cross the street and, if necessary, keep crossing back and forth. If you are pursued, call for help, run into a campus building, business, residence, enlist the aid of a passerby, flag down a passing motorist, or as a last resort pull a fire alarm. Do anything that might attract attention or summon assistance.
- Avoid using athletic facilities alone, especially after dark or during off-hours. Use the "buddy system." Work out with a friend, and make arrangements to leave the gym together. Restrict running or jogging activities to daylight hours and to open, well-traveled areas. If you run or jog at night wear a reflective vest.
- If, while waiting for an elevator, you find yourself alone with a stranger, let him take the elevator and wait for its return. If you are on an elevator with someone who makes you feel uneasy, get off at the next floor. When in an elevator, stand near the control panel, where you have access to the alarm and floor buttons.
- If you are going out, let someone know where you are going and when you intend on coming back. You and your roommates can be helpful resources to each other in this way; share your class schedules with them and make a habit of letting each other know if you will be gone for the night.

Party Safely

Parties are a part of the college/university culture. For many students, this may include clubbing, attending dorm parties, or parties at a fellow student's house.

- Be aware of "predatory drugs", substances that can be slipped into drinks without one's knowledge. Do not accept drinks from someone else or drink from a punch bowl. Get your own drinks and watch it being made. Do not leave your drink unattended. Do not let others top up your drinks.
- The best way to avoid drug-related problems is not to use at all. If you do, make sure you know what you are taking and find out how to reduce the risks of overdose or injury. Never mix drugs with alcohol or other drugs.
- Drink in moderation. Trust your own judgement. Don't let peer pressure sway you into doing anything you don't want to do. It's okay to say no.
- Alcohol impairs one's judgement, have a plan in advance for partying safely. Use a buddy system, men and women - designate a sober chauffeur, a responsible person who will stay sober and lookout for everyone. The sober chauffeur can act as an intervener, stepping in during questionable situations, and making sure you get home safely. Do not let friends leave a party alone or with someone they just met.

Social Media Safety

- The Internet is a public domain. Limit the amount of personal information posted online. Do not post information that makes you vulnerable, including address or information about your schedule. Only post information and photos that you are comfortable with anyone seeing.
- Review the privacy policies of each social media platform. Evaluate your account settings to restrict access to your profile and personal information. Use strong passwords for each of your social media accounts to prevent others from hacking into your account.
- Be selective of friend requests.
- Be aware of the content, tone, and language you use online. What one posts online can impact their public image and reputation.

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