Keep Yourself Safe at NOVA

NOVA campuses are safe, but our excellent record doesn’t mean that it’s not important to take steps to protect yourself at all times. An assault occurs in this country once every minute, and two serious crimes occurred on one of our campuses in February.

The most important thing you can do to protect yourself is to be aware of your surroundings at all times. This means not walking around texting or wearing ear-buds while listening to music. Predators prey on inattentive people. There are numerous cases of people texting or wearing ear-buds falling or stepping into traffic. (Texting while driving is illegal in many states, and wearing ear-buds is illegal in Virginia.)

Here are some additional tips:
- Keep your valuables, such as computers and textbooks, under your direct control at all times. Leaving them unattended invites theft.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash. Keep your cash, ID, and credit cards in your pocket.
- Avoid walking in isolated areas on campus and, when possible, walk with a group of people.
- Learn the call box locations on campus and how to use them.
- Register for NOVA Alert to be informed of problems on campus.
- If you feel uncomfortable, call the College police for an escort.
- If possible, park in lighted parking lot areas.
- Walk to your vehicle with your keys in your hand and check the interior of your vehicle before entering it.
- If confronted by an assailant, do not fight unless your life is in jeopardy. Remember, no property is worth your personal injury.
- Get a good description of any assailant (gender, race, height, weight, hair color, accent, odors, clothing, etc.) and report the details immediately to police.
- Program the telephone number of NOVA college police Dispatch (703-764-5000) into your cell phone. You can reach us at this number from any campus 24/7/365.

Stay alert at all times. If you have safety or security concerns, report them to your campus police or call Dispatch. Working together, we can make NOVA even safer!

Statewide Tornado Drill on March 20

NOVA will participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill on March 20 at 9:45a.m. The Office of Emergency Management and Planning (OEMP) will disseminate more information as the date draws closer.

OEMP is responsible for providing guidance and direction in all areas of College emergency preparedness, training, and response.

OEMP will also sponsor a Federal Emergency Management Agency incident Command System Training for the College and Campus administration.

This training is a vital component in ensuring the highest level of emergency preparedness at NOVA.

You can find more information at: http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stayinformed/tornadoes#std or www.nvcc.edu/emergency.
Crime Prevention Tips: Harassing Phone Calls

Just about everyone has received a harassing or annoying phone call. The following three code sections of the Code of Virginia protect you from telephone abuse and provide the correct procedures for ending it.

**18.2-427 - Use of profane, threatening, or indecent language over the telephone.**
If any person shall use obscene, vulgar, profane, lewd, lascivious, or indecent language, or make any suggestion or proposal of an obscene nature, or threaten any illegal or immoral act with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person, over any telephone in this State, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. (Note: A Class 1 misdemeanor may be punishable by up to a year in jail and up to a $2,500 fine.)

**18.2-428 - Giving false information to another by telephone.**
If any person maliciously advises or informs another over any telephone in this State of the death of, accident to, injury to, illness of, or disappearance of some third party, knowing the same to be false, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**18.2-429 - Causing telephone to ring with intent to annoy.**
Any person who without intent to converse but with intent to annoy any other person, causes any telephone not his own to ring, and any person who permits or condones the use of any telephone under his control for such purpose shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. (Note: A Class 3 misdemeanor may be punishable by a fine up to $500.)

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP
The telephone company can assist you if you are the victim of annoying, harassing or threatening calls. Using special equipment, the telephone company can locate the number from which calls originate. You can assist this process by pressing *57 from a touch-tone telephone or by dialing 1157 from a rotary-dial telephone after disconnecting from each harassing/annoying call (there is a small charge for this service). Document the date and time of each call, and then report the incident to the Police Department and to the telephone company.

Failure to prosecute after learning that a caller is just an ex-friend will not deter future calls to you or others. Both the police and the telephone company encourage you to prosecute once the identity of the caller is determined.

**TELEPHONE TIPS**
1. Don't give the caller the satisfaction of knowing you are listening. Hang up at the first obscene word.
2. Don't talk to a caller who refuses to identify himself/ or herself.
3. Don't allow small children to talk on the telephone unless you know the other party.
4. Don't hesitate to inquire about having your number changed if you receive frequent wrong number calls. Your number may be similar to a business phone and easy for people to dial incorrectly.
5. Call the police if you receive threatening, obscene or suspicious phone calls.
6. Never give out personal information on the telephone unless you know the caller.
7. If you have received obscene calls, notify the telephone company at once.
NOVA Police Community Outreach Events

Campus-Wide Active Shooter Training

NOVA Police and The Office of Emergency Management and Planning (OEMP) will provide Active Shooter training at each campus during the spring. Actual locations where the training will occur will be provided via a campus-wide email.

**Here are the dates of each campus training session:**
Alexandria: April 19
Annandale: March 8
Loudoun: May 24
Manassas: May 17
Medical Education: March 29
Woodbridge: May 10

Classes will be held from noon until 1:00 p.m.
Contact Officer Tony Ong for registration details at Tong@nvcc.edu.

2nd NOVA PD Community Basketball Tournament

On February 10, 2012, NOVA Police held its 2nd annual community 3-on-3 basketball tournament at the Annandale Campus. The event was a huge success with many faculty, staff, students and police meeting up for a friendly competition. After a close game — the students were victorious again with faculty and police tying for second place. NOVA Police thank everyone who participated, especially the team captains: Dr. Athos Brewer for the faculty and Jeffrey Dukat for the students.