Statewide Tornado Drill on March 15

When it comes to tornadoes, there's no such thing as a "tornado season". Tornadoes can strike anywhere, anytime, and you need to know the drill.

The Office of Emergency Management & Planning is responsible for providing guidance and direction in all areas of emergency preparedness, training, and response for the College.

The Emergency Management & Planning will 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.

If you have any questions in relation to emergency preparedness, or questions about this upcoming event please contact the Director of Emergency Management and Planning.

Are you ready if a tornado comes?

Northern Virginia Community College’s First Community Resource

Officer Tony Ong is the new NOVA Police Community Resource officer. The primary goal for this new position is to support the proactive partnerships between law enforcement and the college community. Officer Ong will be working directly with the college faculty, staff, and students to serve as a resource for those dealing with problems that affect the educational environment. This goal is going to be accomplished by working directly with our community through educating and resolving any ongoing concerns our community is currently encountering by hosting presentations, individual workshops, events, and one on one meetings.
During Spring 2010, Northern Virginia Community College completed a Presidential Commission on Safety and Security. This comprehensive review provided recommendations on how to make NOVA a safer and more secure environment. Here are a few updates:

- **The installation of interior locks for all standard classrooms will be completed.** *Update:* The installation of all standard classroom locks was completed at each campus by the start of classes in August 2010.

- **Comprehensive plans for a College-wide 24/7 Dispatch Center will be developed, and once developed it will be staffed and implemented.** *Update:* Dispatch: A Plan has been developed and approved by the Chief of Police. Steps are currently underway that includes the hiring of dispatchers, procurement of equipment and development of policy that will enable NOVA to have a single number to call 24 hours a day to reach public safety.

- **Additional staffing will be considered for the College Police.** *Update:* Additional personnel, who will support 24-hour communications and College Police administration, have been approved by the Administrative Council and will be hired by the spring of 2011. The total number of approved new staff is 10. New Staffing includes the following: Assistant Chief, Lieutenants, five full time dispatchers, and a Crime Prevention/Community Outreach officer.

- **The Police will continue to function as an integral part of the campus and College-wide CARE teams.** *Update:* Currently, sergeants at each campus serve on the CARE teams. The Chief of Police serves as a member of the College CARE team and will continue to ensure that he and the sergeants remain active in these roles.

- **Additional staffing will be considered for the Office of Emergency Management and Planning.** *Update:* The request for additional staffing has been approved by the Administrative Council and three new staff members (District Emergency Management Coordinators) are being hired. Each individual will be assigned to work with two campuses on all phases of emergency management. Interviews have been conducted and it is anticipated that the positions will be filled soon.

- **Continue to assess the functionality of the Panic Button mechanisms for College offices and pursue further capabilities as warranted.** *Update:* The “Panic Button” feature has been implemented College-wide on most, if not every, IP phone.

- **Consider establishing an Advisory Committee for Safety and Security to provide a formalized means for the ongoing stakeholder review of these matters.** *Update:* An Advisory Committee for Safety and Security has been established to provide the College Administration with an ongoing advisory perspective from various constituent groups about the status of issues related to safety and security. Although this committee is not responsible for operations, it may consult directly with, and receive reports from, those offices specifically charged with the responsibility for emergency planning and management and other matters related to safety and security. The Advisory Committee will make any observations and recommendations to the President. The position of chair will be rotated biannually among the Provosts.

  Membership will include:

  - A Provost
  - Chair of the College Senate
  - Three teaching faculty members
  - Three administrative and professional faculty members (to include an LRS representative and a campus evening administrator)
  - Three classified staff members
  - Three students
  - One Academic Dean
  - One Dean of Students
  - The Director of Emergency Management and Planning and the Chief of Police who will serve as ex-officio non-voting member of the Committee.
Active Shooter Training at the Medical Education Campus

In a coordinated effort, an active shooter drill was conducted on February 18, 2011 on the Medical Education Campus.

This drill was the first active shooter drill at NOVA where students and staff actively occupied the building.

The drill was successfully completed and provided valuable insight and lessons. The Acting Director of Public Safety, Chief Dusseau said “It is our hope that we never have a real incident, but training such as this is critical in today’s world.”

More of these and other such drills are being planned for all campuses. If you are present when they occur please treat them seriously, it may save your life one day.

The NOVA Police Department has noted an increased number of NOVA parking decals being stolen off vehicles on some of the campuses.

Please be reminded that when applying your NOVA parking decal on your vehicle do not apply the decal directly onto an existing decal, dirty surface, or any other material that would jeopardize the adhesive material from bonding with your rear windshield.

Also please report any suspicious activity to your Campus Police especially if you see someone that might be attempting to remove a parking decal from a vehicle.

If your decal is stolen please contact your Campus Police department and Parking Service’s department as soon as possible for a replacement.

Increased Number of Stolen NOVA Parking Decals