

# NOVA PUBLIC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021



NOVA PD officers seen wearing their Inauguration badges while assisting in the State Transfer assignment



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## Penelope Says: Take Care of Yourself

Penelope the NOVA Police Cat is a dickens of a cat when she coins a phrase: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times....." We are all stressed out by the continued presence of the pandemic, economic pressures, reduced social contacts, and the early onset of darkness due to winter's shorter days. Penelope reminds you to take a few moments each day to take care of yourself. Do something you enjoy and that's good for you. Call a friend, read a book, exercise, and count your blessings. Things are beginning to look up and we'll all be together again soon.



Download the **FREE** LiveSafe Mobile Safety App

Police Dispatch can be reached 24/7/365 @ **(703) 764-5000**

## New Reporting Processes at NOVA

Reporting concerning behaviors just became more streamlined and precise at NOVA. In the past, most reports were submitted to central locations, sorted, and then routed to the appropriate office to be addressed. The advantage of NOVA's new reporting system is that you can communicate directly and more quickly with the most appropriate offices and expedite needed services.

Now, you can communicate directly with whomever is best suited to respond to your issue. For instance, in the event of academic integrity concerns, your report will go directly to the academic dean, associate dean and the instructor involved. You can make your report using the following link:  
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthernVirginiaCC&layout\\_id=5](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthernVirginiaCC&layout_id=5)

Student conduct issues, such as stealing, disruptions, threats and use of controlled substances on campus can be submitted to the Dean of Students at:  
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthernVirginiaCC&layout\\_id=50](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthernVirginiaCC&layout_id=50)

Sexual misconduct (e.g., discrimination based on sex, gender identity or gender expression, dating/domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and sexual harassment) reports go directly to the Title IX office. Submit your reports at:  
<https://www.nvcc.edu/forms/>  
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthernVirginiaCC&layout\\_id=30](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthernVirginiaCC&layout_id=30)

## NOVA Emergency Planning

Keeping NOVA safe and serving the community are key elements of our mission, and these tasks require substantial planning and execution by a coordinated team of NOVA professionals.

For years, NOVA has been identified as a State Transfer Point (STP) with the mission of receiving and caring for up to 5000 evacuees (for up to 48 hours) from a local natural disaster, political unrest, a terrorist event, etc.

Several weeks before the January 20 presidential inauguration, concerns about potential political unrest and violence raised the potential issue of a large-scale evacuation of DC residents and inauguration attendees, who would have to be bussed from Arlington to the STP established on the Annandale campus.

The activation of the STP would have presented numerous challenges, including threat assessment, registering evacuees, security of the evacuees, COVID concerns (e.g., masks, social distancing, and site cleaning), responding to injuries and mental stress, feeding and hydrating the evacuees, reuniting families, collecting and returning lost and found items, dealing with pets brought by evacuees, traffic control, providing timely instructions and information to evacuees, etc. At the same time, operations on other NOVA campuses would need to be maintained.

These and other STP responsibilities would be met by various NOVA entities, such as the Office of Emergency Management and Safety (OEMS), who exercised overall planning and operational direction, NOVA Police, IT, Facilities, Dispatch, the Office of Wellness and Mental Health, Human Resources, and others. The Virginia Departments of Social Services and Emergency Management, NOVA contract security, and George Mason Police, who would exercise traffic control and help secure various Annandale buildings also played key supporting roles.

## New Reporting Processes at NOVA (cont'd)

Students needing assistance due to academic or personal problems, emotional difficulties, or due to behaviors causing others to be concerned about the student's wellbeing should be reported to:

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthernVirginiaCC&layout\\_id=10](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?NorthernVirginiaCC&layout_id=10). These reports will go directly to the Office of Wellness and Mental Health and then, in most cases, be forwarded to various campus CARE Teams.

For suspected violations of the Clery Act, you can make a report using NOVA form 105-174, available in the Forms Library at :

<https://www.nvcc.edu/forms/pdf/105-174.pdf>

Of course, for suspected criminal activity, concerning behavior, or instances where safety or security is being compromised, please communicate directly with NOVA Police. You can reach our dispatch center 24/7/365 at 703-764-5000. You can also communicate with us at [novapolice@nvcc.edu](mailto:novapolice@nvcc.edu). Don't forget that you can make written, verbal and video reports (anonymously) to dispatch using the free LiveSafe mobile safety app. Download this app (which can also be used for requesting classroom unlocks) at [www.LiveSafeMobile.com](http://www.LiveSafeMobile.com).

## NOVA Emergency Planning (cont'd)

The coordination of these massive responsibilities required the development of various detailed operational plans, numerous coordination meetings, and guidance from the College's leadership. Potential problems and solutions, priorities, and needs were examined and resolved. In the days leading up to the Inauguration OEMS monitored the situation and the threat level. The OEMS Team communicated with local and state officials, becoming a vital part of their planning to support the safety and success of the Inauguration in Washington, DC. On January 19, the day before the inauguration, OEMS activated NOVA's Emergency Operations Center and it was staffed either in person or via virtual links by key NOVA and external offices. The EOC opened again at 0800 on January 20, in the event the STP was activated.

Fortunately, activation was not required but the planning for this contingency allowed us to exercise our plans and coordinate our activities with College and local supporting entities. The quality of NOVA's plan and the College's readiness to serve the community while sustaining essential educational missions provide ample testimony to the professionalism and readiness of OEMS, NOVA Police and Communications, and myriad other NOVA organizations.

## Who are the NOVA Police? Some Surprising Facts

If you have been at NOVA for any time, you have realized that your college police department is one of the best in the country. We have won national and state awards, we are regularly invited to speak at national and international conferences, we have published more than 40 articles in national magazines on various policing topics, and we have delivered more than 700 campus presentations in the last 10 years. As a result of our efforts, reported crime at NOVA has declined 65% in the last 7 years.

The secret to our successes is our officers, who have attained the highest level of professionalism in the law enforcement career field. So..., let us give you an insight into the people, both uniformed and civilian, who protect and serve you every day:

## Who are the NOVA Police? Some Surprising Facts (cont'd)

Prior Service and Experience: Your average NOVA police officer has been in law enforcement for an average of 18 years, with approximately 8 years here at the College. Our officers have served in many departments, including Fairfax, Metro Transit, Airport Police, Falls Church, Quantico, Orange, Prince George's and Montgomery counties, various sheriffs' departments, and a regional jail. Our officers have served at senior levels in many of these departments, to include chief of police, major, captain and lieutenants. We speak 10 languages, have traveled to more than 50 countries on every continent (so we know how to empathize with people); and have worked in other interesting career fields such as university professor, nuclear weapons command and control, explosive ordinance disposal, submarine maintenance, radiology, project management, public information officer, magistrate, camp counselor, mediator, and military rescue swimmer.

Education: Approximately two-thirds of our officers have completed at least two years of college, a quarter of our officers hold four-year degrees, three officers have Masters degrees, and one holds a doctorate. Our officers have studied many disciplines, including international politics, psychology, criminal justice, business, IT and computers, cybersecurity, paramedic, healthcare administration, journalism and radiology.

Training and Specializations: One-third of our officers are certified instructors by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice. This means our officers are certified to teach other police officers how to do their jobs in the following areas: firearms, control tactics, communications, speed measurement, driving, active shooter response, Verbal Judo, and recruit field training. In addition to these areas, our officers have received advanced specialized training in community outreach; robbery, homicide, drug, and sexual assault investigations; civil disturbance; first aid, tourniquet application, CPR and AED; dealing with individuals with mental health challenges; crime scene analysis; evidentiary procedures; and interview and investigations.

Community Involvement: NOVA officers are actively engaged in their communities, participating in the following charities and positions: firefighter, EMT, HOA president, HS football and youth league baseball coaches, hunter safety, church musician, Goodwill Industries, Girl Scouts, the Smithsonian, and the Virginia Hospital Center.

Other Interests: NOVA officers pursue many and varies hobbies in our off-time, to include Russian history, amateur radio, astronomy, martial arts, hiking and camping, photography, crocheting, CrossFit, computers, travel, roller-blading, cooking, reading, painting, aviation, and various sports.

As you can see, our officers are quite accomplished, not only in law enforcement but in numerous other endeavors. This broad expertise and commitment to community are our secrets to serving you at the highest levels of professionalism and capability.

# **DOWNLOAD**

## **LiveSafe Mobile Safety App**

The LiveSafe Mobile Safety app is available for free to all NOVA faculty, students, staff and their friends. This powerful tool can empower you to stay safe, keep your campus safe, put potentially life-saving information at your fingertips, and facilitate timely interaction with NOVA Police and OEMS professionals in the event of an emergency or need for assistance. Download LiveSafe at iTunes or Google Play. It is easy and fast. Go to [www.LiveSafeMobile.com](http://www.LiveSafeMobile.com) to download this great app.



## **2021 NOVA POLICE TRAINING**

NOVA Police conduct an extensive community outreach program. The following topics are available for presentation to faculty, students, clubs, staff, and community organizations via **Zoom or in-person**. If there are topics you would like presented or would like to request additional topics, please contact us at [novapdoutreach@nvcc.edu](mailto:novapdoutreach@nvcc.edu).

### **Selected Topics**

- Active Shooter Response
- Dealing with Difficult People
- Creating and Maintaining a Safe Classroom Environment
- Staying Safe on the Street/Self-Defense Considerations
- Alcohol/DUI Awareness
- Stop the Bleed Tourniquet Certification
- Recognizing/Reporting Suspicious Behavior
- CPR and AED Certification
- Empower Yourself to be Safe!
- Writing in the Workplace
- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Police (But Were Afraid to Ask)
- Ticket Avoidance Strategies
- Crimes Against Women/Human Trafficking
- Gangs and Drugs
- Civilian - Police Interactions