

NOVA PUBLIC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021



Masks are not only socially responsible. They can be fun and creative too!

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Protect Yourself

The word "selfie" is a relatively recent addition to our vocabulary, largely because we all take so many. Our cell phones make it easy to capture our image anywhere and the ability to see our photos immediately makes the whole process easy and self-gratifying.



Penelope the NOVA Police Cat, being beautiful and photogenic, loves to take selfies. However, she has become disturbed by her observation of people taking selfies with their COVID vaccination cards. She has seen many images, even from first responders who should know better, of people's cards displaying their names and birthdays.

Don't do this! Don't share your name and birthday with anyone. This information can help a predator steal your identity. Remember that your identity is one of your most valuable possessions. Protect it!

Download the **FREE** LiveSafe
Mobile Safety App

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

Are You Safe?

NOVA is a safe place. In general, schools and colleges are much safer for students, faculty and staff than surrounding neighborhoods. For instance, the probability of a homicide at post-secondary institutions is .07/100,000 residents. In the US as a whole, the rate is more than 80 times higher, and for those in the 17-29-year-old age group, the rate is over 200 times higher! The vast majority of violent crimes that victimize college students (93%) occurs off-campus.

Not only is NOVA safe; it's getting safer as evidenced by the more than 65% drop in reported campus crime over the last 7 years. Of the crime that occurred on campus, only 20% was against persons. The rest were property crimes such as vandalism and larcenies. When crimes on campus are committed, NOVA Police statistics for solving them are generally higher than those of municipal departments.

Despite these reassuring statistics, NOVA Police and the Office of Emergency Management and Safety (OEMS) understand there are times when people need to know what is being done to maintain safety and security on our campuses. The following bullets illustrate only some of our many to keep our campuses safe.

- **Empowerment.** NOVA Police and OEMS conduct many safety and security presentations annually. In the past, our presentations were conducted in classrooms, convocations, orientations and meetings; now, they are presented virtually. Topics include active shooter response, situational awareness, crimes against women, self-defense considerations, dealing with difficult people, how to create and maintain a safe classroom, staying safe on the streets, what to do if stopped by the police, and many more. As a result of these presentations, college and municipal agencies from around the country and the world call NOVA Police for information about how we conduct police operations and community outreach.

Amps to Zap

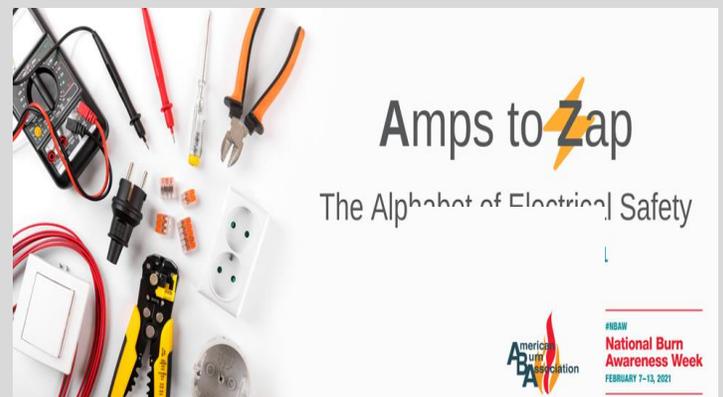
This past month the American Burn Association, or ABA, sponsored the national burn awareness week. This year focused around electrical burn prevention. As part of their campaign, the ABA shared that 73% of all burn injuries occur within the home. This highlights the importance of electrical safety within the home and taking some easy basic steps to keep your home and your loved ones safe from harm.

As part of its 'Amps to Zap' campaign, the ABA hosts 26 different electrical safety tips on their website; one for each letter of the alphabet. However, their top four tips are:

- (1) Use covers on electrical outlets,
- (2) Avoid overloading power strips,
- (3) Check your surroundings when working on a ladder, and,
- (4) Keep electronics and electrical cords away from sources of water in your home.

Check out the American Burn Association's safety campaign at:

<http://ameriburn.org/prevention/burn-awareness-week/>



Are You Safe? (cont'd)

OEMS conducts regular fire, earthquake and tornado drills and exercises throughout the year, empowering the community to take informed and effective actions in crises.

- **Information.** NOVA's award-winning monthly Public Safety Newsletter, which arrives via an email-delivered link (www.nvcc.edu/police/psnewsletters.html), provides important information from the police and OEMS that can keep you and our campuses safe and secure. You can even read monthly tips from Penelope the NOVA Police Cat (also, check her out on Instagram [#penelopenovapolicecat](https://www.instagram.com/penelopenovapolicecat)). NOVA Police Dispatch transmits time-urgent and critical information to warn people about emergencies and necessary courses of action. Finally, OEMS syllabus handouts consolidate critical safety information for students.
- **Support.** As COVID restrictions recede, NOVA Police will resume providing frequent support to College faculty, students and staff in the form of class lectures on academic topics (e.g., police procedures, writing in the workplace) and sponsoring safety events, such as child safety seat installation and inspection, Drug Take-Back and Preventing Vehicle Theft, the latter two initiatives with the Drug Enforcement Agency and State Police respectively. NOVA Police continue to serve as social hosts for international students; we provide access control to buildings, classrooms and labs; mentor clubs; and provide escorts to vehicles (call dispatch and an officer will be sent to your location); etc. OEMS trains wardens and campus crisis response personnel to augment the actions of first responders in critical situations. This support can improve the community's response to dangerous situations and save lives.
- **Outreach.** NOVA Police are active both on campus and in surrounding communities. In addition to our presentations and events, we provide training at local houses of worship, businesses and professional organizations, support campus events such as the annual MLK Day of Service, create podcasts, and patrol our campuses on foot and bicycle to ensure our approachability.
- **Technology.** Panic dialers in classrooms, cameras monitoring campus activities, the availability to the entire NOVA community of the free LiveSafe Mobile Safety app (see link elsewhere in this newsletter) to enhance every aspect of campus safety, and OEMS testing of NOVA alert systems are among the many services that keep our campuses safe.
- **Professionalism.** NOVA officers are always working to improve our services to the campus community. Some of our training and initiatives include Crisis Intervention Team (40 hours of mental health issue response) training and Stop the Bleed training.

However, safe and secure campuses rely on more than safety and security professionals. You, as campus community members, also have critical roles to play in protecting our campuses. These roles include prompt reporting of concerning or unusual behaviors to deter such behaviors, along with activities that can mitigate the seriousness of and assist recovery from a crisis. In short, first responders alone cannot provide complete security; action is incumbent upon *all* campus community members.

Your NOVA Police and OEMS are willing partners in keeping our campuses safe and eager to work with you. Meet us half-way by inviting us into your classes, attending our training and events, making use of our resources, and exercising situational awareness and prompt reporting of concerning or unusual behaviors. If you desire additional information about NOVA's safety and security capabilities, training or services, please contact novapdoutreach@nvcc.edu. Stay safe!

NOVA's New Lieutenant

Lieutenant Matthew Borders is the newest member of the NOVA Police Department, having joined us on February 10th. He was born in Colonial Beach, Virginia and graduated from Old Dominion University with a Bachelor of Science degree (major in Criminal Justice) and a minor in creative writing.

In 1999 Matt joined the Virginia State Police. Upon his academy graduation, he was assigned to patrol Orange County. He later joined the Culpeper Police Department where he was one of the original members of its Crash Reconstruction Team. In 2009 Matt joined the University of Mary Washington (UMW) and was promoted to Sergeant in 2011. While at UMW, he served as the assistant Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission Accreditation Manager and assisted the UMW Police Department in obtaining its national law enforcement accreditation.

Matt is a long-term instructor at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy, where he teaches General Instructor and Firearms Instructor development courses.

Matt's hobbies include, fishing, kayaking and sailing. He has sailed to most towns between Annapolis and Norfolk. He also has experience as a fly fishing guide.



Matt is commanding police operations on the Alexandria, Annandale and Springfield campuses. When you see him on campus, say hello to this outstanding professional.



NOVA PD is looking for people who want to help others. Join us!

DOWNLOAD

LiveSafe Mobile Safety App

The free LiveSafe Mobile Safety app is available 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 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.

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