



# NOVA Public Safety Newsletter



A NOVA police officer applies a tourniquet to NOVA's Deputy Chief at the Department's annual active incident training. Active incident and tourniquet training are available from NOVA Police and OEMS. For info, contact [Novapdoutreach@nvcc.edu](mailto:Novapdoutreach@nvcc.edu).



## Penelope's Tip on Privacy

Even when she is at home, Penelope the NoVA Police Cat spends a lot of time at her computer. Besides all the report writing and training that goes with being a law enforcement officer, Penelope is working hard on an advanced degree (Advanced Napology) and doing a lot of her shopping on the web. She always exercises good cyber security practices, such as using different passwords for each account and creating strong passwords that employ combinations of letters, punctuation and numbers. She never uses personal information such as her minion's birthday, and she changes her passwords frequently.

There are lots of scams out there so Penelope reminds you to guard your privacy carefully. It's what all the cool cats do. If you cannot get enough of Penelope, follow her on Instagram at: [@penelopenovapolicecat](https://www.instagram.com/penelopenovapolicecat).

## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

NOVA Police do far more than serving and protecting NOVA's campuses. During the month of October, you may notice officers and civilian personnel of the NOVA Police Department wearing pink ribbons on their uniforms and work attire. Department personnel wearing these ribbons have contributed to the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation (VBCF) (<https://www.vbcf.org>) to help combat this deadly disease.

Breast cancer is a true scourge, with over 200,000 cases every year. While the disease affects mainly women, men can also contract it.

Regular medical check-ups are key to confirming the disease and identifying timely optimum treatment.

## October 2020

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## October is **Breast Cancer Awareness** Month (cont'd)

However, individuals can and should examine themselves for any of the 8 common warning signs (<https://komenpugetsound.org>).

NOVA Police encourage you to be examined regularly and invite you to join us in the battle against this deadly disease by making a donation at the VBCF site.

In November, NOVA Police will be participating in “No-Shave November” as we battle prostate cancer.



## NOVA Police Department is Highly Regarded

The NOVA Police Department is one the most highly recognized college / university police departments, not only in the Commonwealth of Virginia but in the country!

Within the past 10 years, NOVA personnel have received numerous awards, including:

- First place for excellence in the US (2014) Campus Safety Magazine Chief of the year competition
- Virginia Governor’s award for Administrative Excellence
- A state-wide award for bravery
- Finalist: American Association of Community College Award for Excellence: Safety, Planning and Leadership
- A regional award for service
- Five awards for excellence for the Public Safety Newsletter from the Virginia Community College Association
- Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators Outstanding Achievement in Campus Law Enforcement (2018 and 2017)
- Six national awards for written articles by the Public Safety Writers Association
- Above and Beyond Award, Springfield, VA Chamber of Commerce (2016 and 2015)
- Two designations by Campus Safety Magazine, the county’s leading journal for institutional policing, as sources of its best articles
- Leadership Award for the outstanding recruit, Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy (2017)

## NOVA Police Department is Highly Regarded (cont'd)

These awards recognize the leading position of the NOVA Police Department in implementing innovative strategies to improve campus safety by empowering the people we serve. NOVA Police expertise is routinely solicited at regional, national, and international conferences, all of which seek to emulate the College's 65% reduction in reported crime since 2011.

### Practice Makes Progress

Every year, NOVA puts on a full-function exercise to practice hands-on disaster response. This exercise starts with a staged "disaster" and includes actors, with simulated injuries, to play civilians at the scene. Evaluators are placed around the scene to watch the exercise "play" and provide feedback (i.e., lessons learned) on how well the response was executed and changes needed.

These simulated disasters help the college remain prepared to act in the event of a real disaster. However, due to COVID-19, NOVA's Office of Emergency Management and Safety (OEMS) is altering the exercise process.

OEMS will conduct this year's exercise via Zoom. This virtual format will require participating personnel to verbalize their actions and summarize their responses in a discussion-based format. This virtual scenario will allow social distancing while still being able to practice the actions NOVA would take during an actual disaster. OEMS will also incorporate COVID-19 pandemic concerns and precautions into this year's exercise, requiring response personnel to consider how they might prioritize health considerations during a disaster.

NOVA's OEMS is preparing this year's exercise, which will occur during October. This exercise will immediately follow an earthquake drill for college administration to talk through the entirety of the response. Administrators will also consider how to maintain COVID-19 safety precautions during their response.

In the weeks following this exercise, OEMS will issue a report that reviews the college's response and identifies strengths and areas where improvement is needed. This report will help determine future training and preparedness efforts to enhance NOVA's culture of safety.



## New NOVA Officers Join the Team

Please welcome Officers Ariel Fahy and Walter Luduena-Morales as the newest members of the Northern Virginia Community College Police Department. Our officers graduated from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy in July, along with 95 other police recruits and sheriffs' deputies from across Northern Virginia. The rigorous five-month academy curriculum included training in Virginia's legal code, emergency vehicle operations, active shooter response, firearms, HAZMAT, childbirth, dealing with mentally-challenged individuals, report writing, conflict de-escalation, control tactics, and other critical topics.



Chief of Police Dan Dusseau at the police academy graduation with NOVA's newest officers Ariel Fahy and Walter Luduena-Morales .

This rigorous physically and mentally challenging curriculum resulted in both Officers earning 24 hours of college credit. Ariel and Walter are undergoing final field training on NOVA campuses before being assigned to their respective campuses. If you see Ariel or Walter, say hello and get to know these fine new officers.

## 2020 NOVA Police Training

NOVA Police conduct an active 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).

### 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
- Staying Safe While Using Uber and Lyft
- Technology and Policing
- 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

### Download the LiveSafe Mobile Safety App

The LiveSafe Mobile Safety app, 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.



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