

# NOVA PUBLIC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021



NOVA Officers participated with local communities at Alexandria City and Loudoun County National Night Out events. Pictured are Sgt. Nicole Langlois-Fisher (LO) and Officers Mike Shallue and Sara Ebrahimi (AL).

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## NOVA Police Welcome You Back to the New Semester

NOVA Police know academic success comes to those who dedicate themselves to hard work. We wish everyone academic success in the coming semester. NOVA Police want you to have fun while staying safe. Pay attention to what's happening around you. We also advise you to keep your valuables under constant control. Checking out the critical safety information in this newsletter is a good start.

Download the **FREE** LiveSafe  
Mobile Safety App

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

[NOVApolice@nvcc.edu](mailto:NOVApolice@nvcc.edu)

[NOVApdoutreach@nvcc.edu](mailto:NOVApdoutreach@nvcc.edu)

## How NOVA Keeps You Safe

NOVA campuses are very safe, and the College's Police Department, Office of Emergency Management and Safety, and Office of Wellness and Mental Health work hard to maintain safe and secure campuses that support NOVA's education mission. In spite of our excellent safety record and capabilities, crimes and concerning situations occasionally occur on NOVA campuses. It is important to familiarize yourself with our services so you can take steps to protect yourself at all times.

## NOVA Police

The NOVA Police are here both to protect and serve you. All NOVA police officers are fully certified by Virginia's Department of Criminal Justice Services and are sworn to preserve the public peace, protect life and property, and uphold the laws of Virginia. NOVA officers undergo the same academy training as all other Virginia law enforcement officers and meet the same functional and skill requirements. As a result, NOVA officers have the same authorities and responsibilities as all other Commonwealth law enforcement officers.

We have 50 sworn officers, 7 certified NOVA security officers, and 7 police dispatchers.

Police Services. We offer many services to help keep you safe because we recognize that learning is most efficient in a safe and secure environment. We operate lost and found on each campus; if your car won't start, give us a call and we will do what we can to get you on your way; and if you feel unsafe and want a police escort to or from your vehicle or between classes, call us. We also have officers who are certified child safety seat installers. If you have or are getting a child safety seat, let us help you install it correctly. Our crime prevention specialists are always available to answer questions on how to stay safe.

Training. Keep an eye out for this award-winning Public Safety Newsletter, distributed the first week of each month via email. Each edition has information that can help you stay safe. The last page of each newsletter lists our safety training. The NOVA Police Department has an active training program, giving hundreds presentations over the last few years, free of charge, to faculty, students and staff. Topics included Creating and Maintaining a Safe Classroom Environment, Active Shooter Response, Self-Defense Considerations, Dealing with Difficult People, Writing in the Workplace, Staying Safe on the Street, Threat Awareness and Response, Crimes Against Women and Bystander Intervention, Narcotics, Gangs, Identity Theft, Non-Verbal Communications, Stop the Bleed tourniquet training, and more. We bring these topics to each campus, so watch our newsletters for upcoming training. If there is a particular topic of interest, let us know and we will provide this information.

Police Website. Check out the NOVA Police website at ([www.nvcc.edu/police](http://www.nvcc.edu/police)). Here, you'll find a short safety awareness video and important safety tips; past copies of our Public Safety Newsletters; a link to other services in the event you observe concerning behaviors; NOVA's alcohol, drug and weapons policies; a link to the free LiveSafe mobile safety app; and past copies of the College's Annual Security Report (see below). The website also has a link to the Daily Crime Log (<http://www.nvcc.edu/police/crimelog.html>) which reports all crime on every campus.

Annual Security Report. NOVA's Annual Security Report is mandated by the Department of Education and is due every October. The Annual Security Report lists major crimes, including murder, arson, robbery, sexual assault, and certain types of harassment, broken out by campus. The full list of these offenses is found at the police web site. The report also includes NOVA's safety and security policies and procedures. You may review a copy of the Annual Security Report online ([https://www.nvcc.edu/police/college-safety/\\_files/2020-NOVA-Annual-Security-And-Fire-Report.pdf](https://www.nvcc.edu/police/college-safety/_files/2020-NOVA-Annual-Security-And-Fire-Report.pdf)). If you would like to receive a copy of the Annual Security Report or selected crime statistics, drop by any NOVA Police station to request a copy.

## NOVA Police (Cont'd)

Park on Campus. NOVA strongly encourages all members of the NOVA community to park on campus for all college activities. After 4 pm, parking in the B lots is free. Parking on campus is safer. When you park off campus, you subject yourself to injury, either by crossing busy highways or walking along roads with no sidewalks. The NOVA police do not patrol adjoining neighborhoods, and do not provide police services such as motorist assists and escorts to vehicles parked off campus.

The College has received complaints from businesses whose lots are occupied by NOVA vehicles and neighborhoods where NOVA vehicles are parked on lawns or create additional congestion and noise. We ask you to be a good NOVA ambassador.

Communicating with NOVA Public Safety Officials. All of us, police, faculty, staff and students, have an obligation to help keep NOVA safe. If you observe any crime or concerning behavior, contact Police Dispatch or a campus officer immediately. If you are in urgent need of police services, or, if you want to make a suggestion, file a complaint, or just ask a question, give us a call. In the event of an immediate emergency, call 9-1-1. You can also contact NOVA's dispatch center for a campus emergency or for any police services at any time by calling 703-764-5000. In 2014, NOVA introduced a new way to interact with college police: the LiveSafe Mobile Safety app ([www.livesafemobile.com](http://www.livesafemobile.com)). You can contact dispatch via phone or text for police services, report crimes or concerning behaviors, make recommendations, ask questions or request any of the services mentioned above. You will receive prompt police feedback. If you desire, you can contact us anonymously. You can upload audio, video, and photos if you are reporting a crime or making a suggestion. Finally, the LiveSafe app contains important information, such as what to do in the event of an emergency or dangerous event. Just go to iTunes or Google Play and download the app. It takes about a minute, and it's free!

Safety tips. The most important thing you can do to protect yourself is to be constantly aware of your surroundings. Do not walk while texting or wearing ear buds and listening to music. Predators prey on inattentive people who are easily surprised. The risk is not only from predators. There are numerous cases of people texting or wearing ear buds and falling or stepping into traffic.

Here are some other things you can do:

- Avoid walking in isolated campus areas and walk with others when you can. Call NOVA Police Dispatch for an escort to your vehicle or a jump start. An officer will be sent to your location.
- If possible, park at night in lighted areas near your classes or destination.
- Walk to your vehicle with your keys in your hand and check the interior of your vehicle before entering it.
- If you encounter someone, present a confident image. Do not slouch or look away. Rather, keep walking and look the person in the eye as you pass.
- If confronted by an assailant, run if you can; do not fight unless your life is in jeopardy. No property is worth your injury.
- Keep your valuables such as computers, cell phones and textbooks under your direct control at all times. Leaving them unattended invites theft.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash, and keep your cash, ID and credit cards in your pocket.
- Be familiar with panic dialers in classrooms and in offices.
- In the event of an active shooter, evacuate if possible and do not carry your backpacks, handbags or any parcels which arriving police could suspect of hiding a weapon. If you shelter in place, remain quiet and be prepared to fight for your life.
- Get a good description of any assailant (gender, race, height, weight, hair color, accent, odor, clothing, tattoos, etc.). Report this information immediately to police.
- If you are in danger, see something that concerns you or seems out of place, call college police dispatch or use the LiveSafe app. Do not attempt to intervene directly.

## The Anniversary of the 9-11 Terror Attacks

Do you remember the coordinated 2001 terror attacks on the two World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon, and the failed attack on Washington, DC that crashed in Shanksville, PA? These attacks killed 2,977 people, not counting the 19 terrorists, and constituted the single largest terror attack in US history. In addition to the North and South towers, many other buildings were destroyed completely or condemned and subsequently rebuilt.

Did you know....?

- 340 firefighters and 72 police officers were killed in the deadliest day for first responders in US history. Hundreds of first responders from around the country travelled to New York City (NYC) and Washington to help security and recovery efforts.
- Citizens from 78 countries died in the attacks and more than 25,000 people were injured.
- Over 1100 victims have still not been positively identified.
- US airspace was closed for over a week. Thousands of civilian flights were ordered to land immediately and over 500 international flights coming to the US were diverted, mainly to Canada and Mexico.
- 2500 contaminants within hundreds of thousands of tons of debris became airborne. Over 18,000 people have developed illnesses due to the contamination. NYC air quality did not regain its pre-attack quality until nine months later.
- The attack generated the largest FBI criminal investigation in history, with half of all agents working a half-million leads.
- The economic impact was stupendous: the Dow Jones dropped 14.3% for the largest one-week drop in the stock market's history; 18,000 NYC small businesses were destroyed or displaced; NYC lost 143,000 jobs a month for the first three months and \$2.8B over that time in lost wages; nationally, more than \$10B in infrastructure was destroyed; and the attack triggered a global recession.
- The Pentagon's west face and all internal damage was repaired within a year.
- The Department of Homeland Security was established to consolidate the many agencies supporting national security and improve information sharing.

Patriots Day is celebrated on September 11th each year to commemorate the dedication and courage of those first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice to rescue and care for their fellow citizens and to honor those who serve their communities today. Your NOVA officers and OEMS professionals are proud to be part of this tradition of service.

## Office of Emergency Management and Safety (OEMS)

**NOVA's OEMS is responsible for managing and planning for all non-criminal emergencies on campus and training the NOVA community to deal with such contingencies. OEMS also deals with hazardous materials management, safety exercises, and liaising with emergency management personnel in surrounding jurisdictions. OEMS also trains hallway and building monitors as well as "CCERT" personnel who assume selected emergency safety responsibilities. If you are interested in helping out, please contact us through NOVA Dispatch.**

**Emergency Communications. Each College classroom and office has a phone that allows automatic connection to College Police, or it can be used to dial the College police number.**

**NOVA Alert. If you have not already done so, register your cell phone for NOVA Alert (<https://alert.nvcc.edu>). Our emergency alert system sends out timely and accurate emergency information via text messages to your cell phone and college e-mail address. All students, faculty, and staff may register for this free service online at <https://www.alert.nvcc.edu>.**

## Office of Emergency Management and Safety OEMS (cont'd)

In addition to our 24/7 Dispatch Center and the LiveSafe app, NOVA has many ways to communicate with you during an emergency. NOVA may use some, or all, of the following systems to communicate a threat to the NOVA community or to an appropriate segment of the community.

- **Digital Signage** - Emergency messages can be displayed on flat panel screens strategically located at various campus and selected off-campus locations.
- **Automated or Live Broadcast** - Emergency messages can be broadcast directly into any IP phone on a campus and emergency calls can be made from phones that have been installed college wide.
- **NOVA Desktop Computer Alert** - The College is able to send an emergency alert to computers in both classrooms and offices that are connected to the College computer network.
- **NOVA Website** - Emergency messages can be put on the NOVA Website quickly from any location.
- **Social Media**-A message is posted to NOVA's Facebook ([www.facebook.com/NOVAaccess](http://www.facebook.com/NOVAaccess)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/novaaccess](http://twitter.com/novaaccess)) sites.
- **College Email** - During emergencies, email can be sent to all faculty, staff, adjuncts, and students.

**Emergency Response.** In an emergency you may have to evacuate or shelter-in-place. In the event of severe weather, here are some key things to remember. Prepare to shelter in place if ordered, and stay calm and alert. Relocate to designated shelter areas. Stay clear of glass windows and doorways. If you cannot reach a shelter area, shelter in an interior hallway on the lowest floor possible. If you are unable to reach a building for protection, lay flat in the nearest ditch or ravine.

A building may need to be evacuated due to a fire or another unforeseen emergency such as a chemical spill, structural damage, or violence. In these situations, alert notification systems discussed above may be used to initiate a building evacuation; however, verbal commands from emergency floor wardens, staff, faculty, police or other emergency response personnel may also be used. Whenever a fire alarm is activated or verbal commands are given, all individuals must begin exiting the building immediately and proceed to designated Assembly Area(s). Once in these areas, follow the directions of NOVA officials. Students, faculty, and staff should familiarize themselves with the exit routes and Assembly Areas. OEMS conducts periodic exercises to prepare the NOVA Community to deal with these contingencies.

**OEMS Website.** For more emergency preparedness information go to [www.nvcc.edu/emergency](http://www.nvcc.edu/emergency) . Here, you will find safety information including available training, safety videos and tips, and public safety newsletters.

## NOVA Office of Wellness and Mental Health

The Office of Wellness and Mental Health has an online reporting system which makes it easy to request assistance and / or document concerning behavior. This reporting system facilitates a “See Something, Say Something” culture. There are currently five primary classifications for categorizing incident reports:

Academic Integrity Violation  
Student Needing Assistance Report (Care Team Referral)  
Student Code of Conduct Violation  
Sexual Misconduct / Title IX  
Report about Faculty and Staff behavior

All incident reports submitted through the Office of Wellness and Mental Health are reviewed and assigned to an appropriate trained responder. Concerning behavior and any immediate threat should be reported to NOVA Police.

Sexual assault, harassment, or abuse of any kind is not tolerated at the College. All students, faculty and staff who have been subjected to any form of sexual assault, dating or partner violence, stalking, or abuse on campus are encouraged to report the incident to NOVA Police immediately. If the incident occurred off campus, it should be reported to the police department in that jurisdiction. If you are unsure about whom to call, NOVA Police can assist you. NOVA’s full Sexual Misconduct Policy can be found in both the student and employee handbooks and on-line at [https://www.nvcc.edu/titleix/\\_files/NOVAs-Title-IX-Policy.pdf](https://www.nvcc.edu/titleix/_files/NOVAs-Title-IX-Policy.pdf). If you have been harassed, you may also call NOVA’s Title IX officer at 703.323.2262 or report an offense at [titleix@nvcc.edu](mailto:titleix@nvcc.edu).

If a sexual assault does occur, you should:

- Get to a safe place as soon as possible.
- Call 911 or notify NOVA Police at 703.764.5000 if the incident occurred on a NOVA campus. College faculty and staff members can also assist you in reporting an incident.
- Contact NOVA's Confidential Victim Advocate at 703.323.2136 or [wellness@nvcc.edu](mailto:wellness@nvcc.edu) for information and support whether or not an official report has been made.
- Try to preserve all physical evidence. Do not bathe or change clothes.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible.

### CONCLUSION

NOVA’s professional and dedicated Police Department, OEMS, and Office of Wellness and Mental Health work hard to provide the safe and secure environment that supports learning and enhances the college experience. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, contact us anytime. Working together, we can continue to improve NOVA’s excellent safety record.

# **DOWNLOAD**

## **LiveSafe Mobile Safety App**

The LiveSafe Mobile Safety app is available for free to all NOVA faculty, students, staff and their families and 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
- Bystander Intervention
- 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
- Dealing with Mental Health Issues