Inclement Weather Procedures

As the temperature drops, the Office of Emergency Management would like to remind the NOVA Community of the College’s inclement weather procedures. If the College is going to be closed, a text alert will be sent to cell phones registered with NOVA Alert, a notice will be posted on the home page of the College’s website, and major local media outlets will broadcast the closing information. If the College closes early due to inclement weather, an email will be sent out to all faculty, staff, and students with the closing time.

In the Fall of 2013, the College adopted new closing procedures. If the College closes early due to inclement weather, faculty, staff, and students will be provided specific recommended departure times to facilitate a safe and orderly departure from buildings and campuses. An example of a message you may see is as follows:

NOVA classes and activities will end for students at X:XX p.m. due to inclement weather. Faculty and administrative offices will close at X:XX p.m.

For more details on the College’s inclement weather procedures as well as a listing of the media outlets that will carry the College’s closing and delay information, please go to the Office of Emergency Management’s website, at www.nvcc.edu/emergency. As a reminder, please do not contact Police Dispatch or the Office of Emergency Management for closing updates.

Beware of Cyber Criminals

Identity theft and fraud are particular threats during the holiday shopping season. Frequent use of credit and debit cards makes them lucrative targets for cyber criminals. Follow these tips to minimize your chances of becoming a victim:

1. Single use credit cards, available from your bank.
2. Use your credit card instead of your debit card. The former has more safeguards.
3. Install antivirus software and firewalls on your computers.
4. Enable a lock screen or timeout on your smartphone.
5. Be careful which websites you visit.
6. Only shop online with a secure internet connection, indicated by https.
7. Limit your ATM use to as few machines as possible.
8. Do not reveal your credit card info or passwords to people requesting such over the phone unless you initiate the transaction.
9. Be on the lookout for scams that are too good to be true. They probably aren’t.

If you have questions about the above, contact your NOVA Police or law enforcement officials in your home jurisdiction.
On November 26, members of the NOVA Police Department, Muslim Student Association of Loudoun, and other members of the NOVA community assisted in preparing and serving Thanksgiving dinner at the Loudoun County Homeless Service Center. Department volunteers helped provide an early Thanksgiving meal to more than 30 people who live at the shelter. Through the generous donations from the NOVA community, NOVA’s Police Department delivered a large amount of non-perishable goods to the Loudoun Homeless Service Center’s food pantry. NOVA’s Culinary Instructor and Kitchen Manager, Chef Mike Herbert, also assisted by providing cooked dishes served at the shelter.

The NOVA Police Department thanks everyone who assisted the food drive and who dedicated their day to provide a hot Thanksgiving meal to local needy families.
The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports an estimated annual average of 210 home structure fires that begin with holiday trees. Based on data from 2002 through 2005, these fires caused an average of 24 civilian deaths, 27 civilian injuries, and $13.3 million in direct property damage per year. Further, 49% of tree fires spread beyond the room of origin, causing 94% of the associated fatalities.

The moisture content of each tree can play a dominant role in determining its fire hazard. Properly maintaining a cut tree is important to retaining a high moisture content in the tree’s needles to limit accidental ignition and prevent rapid flame spread. Dry needles can readily ignite with a flaming source and quickly engulf an entire room.

NIST has a video (http://fire.nist.gov/tree_fire.htm) to demonstrate the fire risk between a maintained (wet) tree and a dry tree. In the video screenshots below, notice the ignition time duration in the bottom left corner. You’ll see the dry tree rapidly ignite while the maintained tree is more resilient to fire.

To watch the tree fire video and learn more about tree fire safety, please visit http://fire.nist.gov/tree_fire.htm.
Winter Preparedness

Get Ready for Winter Weather

Recent Virginia winters have been cold and snowy, often causing local power outages. With an El Nino weather pattern expected this season, winter could be wetter than normal. And El Nino winters can be snowier if atmospheric conditions are right … just like the winter of 2009-10.

It’s so important to be winter-ready that the National Weather Service and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management have identified critical information for your consideration:

Be safe on Campus.
- Have sturdy boots with good soles for walking.
- During winter weather, walk carefully on sidewalks and pavement.
- When outside, wear layered lightweight clothing to keep you warm. This works better than a single heavy coat.
- Be familiar with NOVA’s Inclement Weather Procedures.

Get a kit. Basic emergency supplies include:
- Three days’ food that doesn’t need refrigeration or electricity to prepare it
- Three days’ water (a gallon per person per day)
- A battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio with extra batteries
- For businesses and offices, some bottles of water, food bars and a radio or TV to hear local information about whether it is safe to travel
- A power pack for recharging cell phones and other mobile devices

Make a plan. Everyone needs an emergency plan:
- Identify your out-of-town emergency contact.
- Know where will you meet up with family members if you can’t return home?
- Get an emergency plan worksheet at ReadyVirginia.gov.

Stay informed. Before, during and after a winter storm:
- Listen to local media for information and instructions from emergency officials.
- Be aware of winter storm watches and warnings and road conditions.
- Get where you need to go before the weather gets bad.
- Get road condition information 24/7 by calling 511 or checking www.511Virginia.org.

Prepare your car. Keep some supplies in your car for when it is safe to be on the road again:
- Ice scraper for windows
- Shovel and broom
- Sand, rock salt or even kitty litter (fresh) to give you traction if you get stuck
- Extra socks, gloves, and a blanket
- Water and a few nonperishable snacks (crackers, granola bars, trail mix)
- Flashlight
- First aid kit with pocket knife

It’s time to get ready for winter weather now! For more information about NOVA’s Inclement Weather Procedures or emergency procedure information, visit www.nvcc.edu/emergency. Get more winter preparedness information at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.
Upcoming NOVA Police Events

NOVA POLICE TOY DRIVE

NOVA police are hosting a toy drive through December 9. We are asking for donations of new toys for toddlers – through teens. All toys collected will be donated to HomeAid Northern Virginia where the NOVA Police will be on hand to distribute toys.

HomeAid Northern Virginia
3684 Centerview Drive, Suite 110B
Chantilly, Virginia 20151

Website: http://www.homeaidnova.org/
Phone:  571-283-6300
E-mail: info@homeAidNoVa.org

Drop off: Drop off locations will be at any of the 6–NOVA Police stations. December 9th will be the last day to drop off your unwrapped gift.

Please contact: NOVA Police Community Outreach Officer Tony Ong with any questions. tong@nvcc.edu or 703-764-5000.

“HELP PUT A SMILE ON A KID’S FACE WITH A GIFT FROM YOUR HEART.”