NOVA campuses are very safe, but our record of safety doesn’t mean it is not important to take steps to protect yourself at all times. There is an assault in this country every minute, and several serious crimes have occurred recently on or near NOVA campuses.

The most important thing you can do to protect yourself is to be aware of your surroundings at all times. Do not walk around texting or wearing ear buds while 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 tips:**

- Avoid walking in isolated areas on campus and, when possible, walk with a group of people. If you’d like an escort to your vehicle or need a jump start, call college police dispatch. An officer will be sent to your location.
- If possible, park at night in lighted areas of nearby parking lots.
- If you encounter someone in a hallway or on campus, present a confident image. Do not slouch or look way. Rather, keep walking and look the person in the eye as you pass.
- Walk to your vehicle with your keys in your hand.
- Check the interior of your vehicle before entering it.
- If confronted by an assailant, do not fight unless your life is in jeopardy. No property is worth your personal injury.
- Keep your valuables such as computers, cell phones and textbooks under your direct control at all times. Leaving them unattended invites theft.
- 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 must 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.) and report same immediately to police.
- If you are in danger, see something that concerns you, or something seems out of place, call the college police or use the LiveSafe app. Do not attempt to intervene directly.
- Sign up for NOVA Alert to be informed of campus safety and security issues.
- Program NOVA Police Dispatch into your cell phone. You may reach us 24/7 at (703) 764-5000.

Remember to stay alert at all times. If you have safety or security concerns, report them to your campus police or call Dispatch. Working together, we can make NOVA even safer!

Download LiveSafe, NOVA’s free mobile safety app, at iTunes or Google Play.
Fireworks are synonymous with our celebration of Independence Day. Yet, fireworks can also bring pain. Two hundred people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries around the Fourth of July holiday.

**Follow these safety tips when using fireworks:**

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't often realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees — hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or another mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse them with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding them into the garbage to prevent a trash fire.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.


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**Road Closure at the Alexandria Campus**

On June 26, a portion of Netherton Drive, formerly known as East Campus Drive, closed for construction of a new academic building. The closure of this road effects Netherton Drive, adjacent to the Bisdorf Building. Please use the Beauregard Street entrance to access the Schlesinger Center and Tyler Building.
The Office of Emergency Management and Planning (OEMP), which also includes the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), is responsible for providing guidance, direction and training to the College’s faculty, staff, students and visitors in the prevention, protection, response and recovery from emergency incidents or events. This office also responds to emergency incidents that affect NOVA operations.

Past issues of this newsletter have introduced members of the OEMP and EHS staff. OEMP and EHS could not perform its mission without the support of Jennifer Anderson, OEMP’s Training and Administrative Operations Coordinator.

Jennifer has been with NOVA for 10 years. Prior to joining OEMP, she worked in the College Enterprises. She is responsible for financial operations, procurement, inventory, the OEMP blog, training logistics, and much more. Jennifer’s support enables the rest of the team to support NOVA’s safe learning and working environment.

The NOVA Police Department has many officers who patrol our campuses to ensure everyone’s safety. Officer Mike Shallue is one of those officers.

Mike started with NOVA in 2011 and was assigned to patrol the Alexandria Campus. He brings to the department 28 years of experience from the Prince Georges County and Metro Transit police departments. Mike is also a former firefighter and paramedic, so he is fully aware of safety and security operations.

Mike is known as one of the Alexandria Campus’ most friendly, proactive and community-oriented officers. He has mentored many new officers at Alexandria and throughout his career.
NOVA Police Participate in Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics

On June 5, 2014, NOVA Police officers, along with members of the NOVA community, including Dr. Jerry Barrett, Chair of the NOVA College Board, participated in the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Officers Torch Run. Beginning at seven points across the Commonwealth, more than 2,000 officers carried the Special Olympics Flame of Hope over 1,900 miles across Virginia. NOVA’s run commenced at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington. NOVA Police received the Torch from George Mason University Police Department and ran 2.3 miles before passing it to criminal justice students from Robinson High School.

On June 6, officers gathered at a Final Leg Ceremony at the State Capitol, where more than 75 local law enforcement officers ran the Torch Run’s final leg into the University of Richmond’s Robins Center. Officers passed the Flame of Hope to a Special Olympics athlete, who then lit an Olympic Cauldron to open this year’s Summer Games.


(L-R) Ofc. Jeff Johnson, Lt. John Stasiowski and Ofc. Tony Ong
Upcoming NOVA Police Outreach Training and Events

The NOVA Police Department offers training to the NOVA community. Look for training announcements beginning in the Fall on the last page of this Newsletter, along with advertisements on the NOVA Police Blog and the college digital media. Below is a list of NOVA Police training available free of charge to the NOVA community.

- Staying safe on campus
- Active shooter response
- Drugs, alcohol and substance abuse
- DUI awareness
- Gang awareness
- Bomb threat response
- Identity theft
- Dealing with difficult people
- Crimes against women
- Self-defense considerations
- Bystander intervention

Upcoming Events:

- Child Seat Installation and Inspection (September 2014)
- VIN Etching– Deterring Vehicle Thefts (September 2014)