What Does the Panic Dialer on Your Phone Do?

The panic dialer is a device located on the display of college CISCO telephones. It is designed to be used for situations in which a caller needs to contact the College Police, but is not able to speak or is uncomfortable speaking. Examples of situations where a voice response is not feasible would include disruptive or threatening behavior, criminal acts in progress, or any other situation in which you require immediate assistance but the subject committing the act wouldn’t be able to hear the caller summoning help.

By activating the panic dialer, a message that assistance is needed at that telephone’s location is automatically sent to the College Police without having to make a traditional voice call. Activation of the panic dialer from on campus telephones will generate a police response (for off-campus sites, College Police will make contact to determine appropriate response) even if the activation was accidental. Please remember, in an emergency dial 9-1-1 and do not use the panic dialer.

If your current office or work area telephone does not have the panic dialer option on the phone display, please contact NOVA’s Information Technology (IT) Department to have this option programmed on your telephone.

NOVA Police Award Staff for Outstanding Support

College Police recently teamed with NOVA’s Financial and Administrative staff to work a complex case involving computer and financial crimes.

The case required assistance from Kathy Vessey and Sue Liller, who spent countless hours reviewing financial and enrollment records in order to provide a full understanding of the scope of the crimes to investigators. Vessey and Liller attended many meetings, testified in court, and provided support to prosecutors and investigators. David Lord, Assistant Alexandria Commonwealth Attorney noted that largely due to their efforts in providing an overwhelming amount of evidence a successful disposition was reached.

A special thanks to Kathy and Sue for their assistance.

Most telephones on the NOVA campuses have a panic dialer like the one in this photo.
During spring 2010, Northern Virginia Community College completed a Presidential Commission on Safety and Security. This comprehensive review provided recommendations on how to make NOVA a safer and more secure environment. Here are a few updates:

- **The CARE Team structure and organization will receive reaffirmation of full administrative endorsement and support. Updated:** A report to the Administrative Council was presented on February 22, 2011 and the CARE team structure and organization was reaffirmed and fully endorsed.

- **A plan will be developed for better usage of faculty and student leadership in the communication of strategies related to safety and security. Updated:** The plan to develop better usage of faculty and student leadership in the communication of strategies related to safety and security has been implemented. The Director of Web Services and Digital Media will attend the Advisory Committee for College Safety and Security meetings as approved by the chair to record the suggested strategies provided by the faculty and students on this committee for consideration for implementation by the College Emergency Management & Planning Committee. The director is a member of the College Emergency Management & Planning Committee.

- **Strengthen the operational relational relationship between the Business Managers and the Director of Emergency Management and Planning. Updated:** The creation of three safety districts which include two campuses each combined with three new District Emergency Management Coordinators will allow enhanced communication and collaboration between the Business Manager and Emergency Management and Planning Director. Currently two of the three District Emergency Management Coordinators are in place. Kimberly Nagel is the District 1 Emergency Management Coordinator and Stephen Brunelle is the District 2 Emergency Management Coordinator. The District 3 Emergency Management Coordinator is projected to be in place by June 25.
Drug Take Back Event at NOVA

On April 30, 2011 NOVA Police took part in a National Drug Take Back Initiative hosted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The event was held at the Annandale Campus in the CF building. Through the conclusion of this event, the NOVA site collected 69.4 pounds of miscellaneous controlled and non-controlled drugs. This is the second time the DEA hosted this event, and the first time NOVA participated in helping dispose of dangerous drugs properly. The combined partnership by everyone who participated in Virginia produced a total of 9,504.2 pounds of unwanted, unused and potentially harmful drugs being collected from the commonwealth. The amount of drugs collected represents nearly a 50% increase from the first initiative that was held.

There will be another Drug Take Back event in October of this year. More details will be provided as the event nears. If you have any questions please contact Officer Tony Ong.

Community Outreach Officer Tony Ong and three volunteers from the DEA.