Campus Safety Awareness

NOVA works hard to ensure our campuses are safe and secure in support of the College’s academic mission. In fact, NOVA campuses are safer than their surrounding communities. Recently released FBI crime statistics documenting a 43% decline in crime on NOVA campuses attest to the hard work and professionalism of the college police.

That said, crime still does occur. Recent serious crimes include a strong-arm robbery and a sexual assault. In the latter case, the suspect was apprehended by the NOVA Police within a few hours. [See http://www.nvcc.edu/current-students/police/crime-alerts/index.html for more details.] Since our campuses are “open”, individuals not associated with the college often come on campus and some of these individuals engage in illegal activities.

Personal safety is ultimately the responsibility of each individual. To increase your safety, don’t walk alone at night, park in well lighted areas, request an escort if you feel uncomfortable, program the police dispatch number (703-764-5000) into your cell phone, and always be aware of your surroundings (i.e., do not walk around texting, listening to music, or speaking on the phone).

For a complete list of safety tips, visit NOVA Police blog (http://blogs.nvcc.edu/police/). Also remember that NOVA and our Police Department offer various resources to maintain your personal safety:

- Police escorts to vehicles
- Emergency call boxes located in parking lots, garages, and inside buildings
- NOVA Alert (http://alert.nvcc.edu)
- College Safety Video (http://www.nvcc.edu/police or /emergency)
- SAFE-women’s self defense training
- Security Assessments
- College-wide training to include: Active Shooter Response, Gang Awareness, Drugs and Substance Abuse, Sexual Assault/Domestic Assault/Stalking Workshops, and much more.

For additional information on the above, contact NOVA Police Community Outreach Officer: Tong@nvcc.edu

Provosts Participating in Emergency Response Workshops

On August 31st, the Office of Emergency Management and Planning (OEMP) conducted its first Campus Administration Workshop at the Loudoun Campus. The training workshop was based on the College’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which is mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The EOP provides a uniform response to all hazards with the primary goal of preserving life and the safety of the students, faculty, and staff.
Letter and Package Bomb Detection Techniques

- If delivered by carrier, inspect for lumps, bulges, or protrusions, without applying pressure.
- If delivered by carrier, conduct a balance check to see if the package is lopsided.
- Handwritten addresses or labels from companies are improper. Check to see if the company exists and if it sent a package or letter.
- Packages wrapped in string are suspicious, as modern packing materials have eliminated the need for twine or string.
- Excess postage on small packages or letters indicates that the object was not weighed by the Post Office.
- No postage or non-canceled postage.
- Any foreign writing, addresses, or postage.
- Handwritten notes, such as: “To Be Opened in the Privacy of” - “Confidential” - “Your Lucky Day is Here”.
- Improper spelling of common names, places, or titles.
- Generic or incorrect titles.
- Leaks, stains, or protruding wires, string, tape, etc.
- Hand delivered or dropped off for a “friend”.
- No return address or nonsensical return address.
- Any letters or packages arriving before or after a phone call from an unknown person asking if the item was received.
- If you have a suspicious letter or package, call: 911 and then ISOLATE the package and EVACUATE.

Provosts Participating in Emergency Response Workshops (cont’d)

According to the Loudoun Provost, Dr. Julie Leidig, the workshop was “time well spent. I found it very helpful to work through a couple of examples of emergencies that could occur on a campus. We all hope we never have to use the information, but I will certainly be better prepared if and when an emergency occurs.”

OEMP, which is responsible for providing guidance, direction and training to College personnel, is currently working with each Provost and their staffs to ensure they are provided specific emergency management training to prepare them to make emergency response decisions that minimize negative impacts on their campuses. For additional information on emergency preparedness, visit www.nvcc.edu/emergency.
On September 29, 2012, NOVA Police sponsored a National Drug Take Back Initiative on the Annandale Campus. This event, hosted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), collected 3 ½ bags (pictured) of miscellaneous controlled and non-controlled drugs. NOVA has participated 4 out of the 5 times DEA has held this event and our efforts have had a significant impact on helping dispose of dangerous drugs properly.

On September 22, 2012, in a joint venture hosted by the Loudoun Campus, the NOVA Board of Directors, and the NOVA Foundation, NOVA participated for the second time in the Special Olympics-sponsored Dulles Plane Pull event. The muscle was provided by board and foundation members, provosts, faculty, students, staff and the police. “Team NOVA” finished 27th out of 64 teams, pulling a 90-ton jet 7-feet in just over 7 seconds as we raised money for the Special Olympics. Thanks to all who participated, and we hope to see you again next year.
Upcoming Police Outreach Training

Police Safety Outreach Training
(Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence/Stalking Workshop)

The NOVA Police, NOVA Sexual Assault Services [SAS], and the Office of Pregnant and Parenting Student Support [OPPSS] will conduct a workshop on the issues of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Stalking.

Topics include:
- How to combat these topics
- What to do if you are a victim
- What to do if someone you know has been assaulted
- Police guidance (e.g., emergency protective orders and police reporting options, the criminal justice process)
- Available community resources

Dates & Locations

* Alexandria- November 5, AA-158 (12:00 PM – 2:00 PM)
* Annandale- November 7, CE Building Seminar Room C & D (12:30 PM – 2:30 PM)
* Woodbridge- November 9, WC-134 (12:30 PM – 2:00 PM)
* Loudoun- November 14, LR- 274 (12:00PM – 1:30 PM)
* Medical Education- November 15, Room 353 (12:30 PM – 2:00 PM)
* Manassas- November 16, MP 217 (12:00 PM- 1:30 PM)

*The workshops at the Annandale and Alexandria campuses will include a presentation and discussion led by a domestic violence survivor and the founder of SAVE (Stop Abuse, Victim Empowerment).

This training is open to all. Due to space limitations, you must reserve your seat in advance. Contact Officer Tony Ong, NOVA Police Community Outreach Officer, via e-mail (Tong@nvcc.edu).