On August 1, NOVA implemented a new College Police contact number that should be used for all six campuses: (703) 764-5000. “This is a great step for Northern Virginia Community College because communication and coordination are the keys to effective policing. Having a single phone number to receive calls for police services reduces the need for the NOVA community to remember multiple numbers. Ultimately it will improve safety on the campuses,” said NOVA Police Chief Dan Dusseau. Previously used individual campus police numbers will continue to function but will roll over to the central dispatch number for a limited time. Callers will not notice a difference. NOVA is currently working toward having all call boxes and other communication devices synchronized to the central dispatch number. If you have any questions, please contact your college police station.

NOVA recently hired six security guards. These security guards are State employees and will complement the contracted security we have at night. Below are some of the NOVA security duties:

- Access Control
- Escorts to Vehicles
- Foot and Vehicle Patrol
- Monitoring CCTVs
- Monitoring the Campuses by Foot and Vehicle

For any questions about the new NOVA security guards, call the college police at (703)764-5000.
What to Do If Stopped by the Police

There are many reasons why the Police can legally stop you. Do you know what to do if this occurs? Campus police proactively patrol the campuses to ensure the safety of the NOVA community. A police officer may stop you on foot or while you’re in your vehicle if he’s conducting a criminal investigation, making a traffic stop, or believes you need assistance. Below are some tips on what to do if you are stopped by the police.

Traffic Stops

- A police officer may stop you at any time for a traffic offense or criminal investigation.
- When you observe an officer behind you with emergency lights and/or siren activated, remain calm and safely pull over to the right side of the road or to a nearby safe location.
- Remain in your vehicle unless the officer directs otherwise.
- Keep your hands in plain sight so the officer can see them.
- Avoid any sudden movements especially towards the floorboard, rear seat, or passenger side of the vehicle.
- The officer will ask you for your identification along with other documentation.
- Wait until the officer asks for your driver license, vehicle registration, or other documents before reaching for them.
- If the stop occurs at night, the officer will likely illuminate the inside of your vehicle with a spotlight and flashlight. This is for the officer’s safety as well as your own; don’t be alarmed.
- It would not be unusual to see an additional police officer on scene of a traffic stop.
- The officer may issue you a ticket. If you feel the reason is vague or unclear, ask the officer for clarification.
- Avoid becoming argumentative. If you desire to contest the ticket, you will have an opportunity to address the matter in court. If you are issued a ticket, you will be asked to sign it. Your signature is not an admission of guilt; it only signifies your promise to come to court or pre-pay the fine (if allowed).
- You may ask for the officer for his or her unit number, and you may make a complaint if you feel you have been treated unfairly or discourteously. Contact Police Dispatch or ask for a campus supervisor by calling (703) 764-5000.
Dealing With an Active Shooter

**What is an Active Shooter?**
An Active Shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Typically, the immediate deployment of law enforcement is required to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to victims. Because active shooter situations are usually over within 10 to 15 minutes, often before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.

**GOOD PRACTICES FOR COPING WITH AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION**
- Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life. Remember that students are likely to follow the lead of faculty and staff during an active shooter situation.
- Be aware of your environment and associated dangers.
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any building you visit.
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door.
- If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door.

**CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO!**

**Evacuate**
- If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises immediately. Be sure to:
  - have an escape route and plan in mind
  - evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow
  - leave your belongings behind
  - help others escape, if possible
  - prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be
  - keep your hands visible
  - follow the instructions of any police officers
  - do not attempt to move wounded people
  - call 911 when you are safe

**Hide Out**
If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you.
- Your hiding place should:
  - be out of the active shooter’s view
  - provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e., an office with a closed and locked door)
  - not trap you or restrict your options for movement
- Prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:
  - lock the door
  - blockade the door with heavy furniture
- If the active shooter is nearby:
  - lock the door
  - silence your cell phone
  - turn off any source of noise (i.e., radios, televisions)
  - hide behind large items (i.e., cabinets, desks)
  - remain quiet
  - turn off the lights
Dealing With an Active Shooter (cont.)

If evacuation and hiding out are not possible:
- Remain calm
- Dial 911, if possible, to alert police to the active shooter’s location. Also provide the following information:
  - physical description of shooter(s)
  - number of and type of weapons held by the shooter(s)
  - number of potential victims at the location
- If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen.

Take Action Against the Active Shooter
As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:
- acting as aggressively as possible by attacking him/her with help from other potential victims
- throw items and improvising weapons
- commit to your actions.

How to RESPOND When Law Enforcement Arrives
Law enforcement’s purpose is to stop the Active Shooter as soon as possible. Officers will proceed directly to the area in which the last shots were heard.
- officers usually arrive in teams of four
- officers may wear regular patrol uniforms or external bulletproof vests, Kevlar helmets, and other tactical equipment
- officers will be armed with rifles, shotguns, and/or handguns
- officers may use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation
- officers may shout commands, and may push individuals to the ground for their safety.

How to REACT When Law Enforcement Arrives
- remain calm, and follow officers’ instructions
- put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
- immediately raise hands and spread fingers
- keep hands visible at all times
- avoid making quick movements toward officers
- do not hold on to officers for safety
- avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling
- do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating; just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises since that area has already been cleared.
Recent NOVA Police Community Outreach

On August 2, 2011, The NOVA Police Department participated in National Night Out, held at Manassas Park. Through this event we were able to reach out to a younger audience and teach them about what police do on a daily basis. This event had a huge turn out of audiences of all ages. We provided our audiences, both young and old, with information about how to stay safe and police operations.

In the month of August, NOVA Police were invited to the Congressional Camp for kids located in Falls Church, Va. The instructors for this camp taught kids 3 to 5 years old about our local community heroes. Lieutenant John DeGurse and Community Outreach Officer Tony Ong were invited to the camp to educate the kids on how to stay safe and what the police do everyday to keep people safe. More than one hundred students attended this session. We demonstrated some of our police equipment and we allowed the kids to examine our police cruisers.

Upcoming Events:

- September is National College Safety Month (look for safety events that College Police will be holding)
- Community Shared Event at Annandale Campus on Sept. 17
- Safety Awareness BBQ at Alexandria Campus on Sept. 22
- SAFE-Women self defense registration on Sept. 22
- Special Olympics Plane Pull on Sept. 24