

MEMORANDUM

January 31, 2017

To: American University Community

From: Phil Morse, Executive Director, AU Police and Emergency Management
Dan Nichols, Executive Director, Risk, Safety, and Transportation Programs

Subject: AU Campus Safety and Security Resources Notification

American University considers the safety and security of its students, faculty, staff, and visitors its highest priority. To ensure an atmosphere that fosters and promotes the university's educational mission, AU is committed to keeping our community safe and secure from possible threats and criminal activity. A safe community depends on the cooperation, involvement, and awareness of everyone on campus.

At the direction of President Kerwin, we have initiated new programs designed to enable our community to be more informed, aware, and active in AU's safety and security methods and processes. We also continue to update and refine existing programs that have proven successful over time. This notification, which will be issued periodically, details the full scope of AU resources provided to ensure your protection and preparedness.

Below we provide a comprehensive listing of programs, policies, and procedures that covers numerous safety and security issues affecting our community. For ease of reference, we have broken them down by topic: Communicate, Learn, Prepare, Prevent, and Respond.

AU has committed significant resources to ensure your safety and security. Awareness and preparedness require the active involvement of each member of our community; and it begins with you. Please take a few minutes to review the information and open the attached links to learn more about each topic.

Communicate

On Campus

Emergency & Non-Emergency Contact Information

On-Campus Police, Medical and Fire Emergencies: (202) 885-3636

On-Campus Non-Emergencies: (202) 885-2527

AU Alerts

AU Alerts communicates warnings and instructions during critical incidents such as natural disasters, fires, gas leaks, and active shooter incidents. Alerts are delivered via text message, e-mail, social media, indoor AlertUs beacons, AlertUs computer software, and outdoor speakers. AU students, faculty, and staff are subscribed automatically to AU Alerts. To verify your subscription and update and manage your AU Alerts contact information, log-in with your AU credentials at www.getrave.com or go to the AU Emergency Preparedness website at www.american.edu/emergency.

Rave Guardian App

Rave Guardian, available for free on the Apple App Store and Google Play, transforms your Android or iPhone into a personal safety device. It provides a mobile panic button that sends your location and identifying information to AU Police. A safety timer notifies your selected guardians and AU Police when it is not deactivated. Anonymous crime tips or photographs can be sent to AU Police via the app. Your custom profile notifies AU Police of your emergency contacts, vehicles, pets, and medical information. Download the [iPhone](#) or [Android](#) version and log-in with your AU credentials.

Blue Light Emergency Telephones

Located across campus, blue light emergency telephones call AU Police when activated.

Anonymous Tips

Anonymous tips about suspicious activity can be reported [online](#) to AU Police.

Twitter

Follow AU Police [@AUPublicSafety](#) and AU Alerts [@AmericanU](#).

Off Campus

City Alerts

Sign up for emergency alerts issued by the District of Columbia, including the D.C. Metropolitan Police, at www.HSEMA.DC.Gov.

Twitter

Follow the D.C. Metropolitan Police www.twitter.com/DCPoliceDept.

Learn

Self-Defense Training

Free self-defense training courses are offered each semester by trained AU Police instructors. Courses are available for female, gender neutral, and male audiences. Sign-up [online](#) or e-mail PublicSafetySelfDefense@american.edu for more information.

Crime Prevention Presentations

Customized crime prevention presentations are available to student, staff and faculty groups, organizations, and offices. E-mail dps@american.edu to set up a presentation.

Crime Alerts, Daily Crime Log and Annual Security Report

In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act, information about campus safety is posted [online](#) and available at the Public Safety Building. Recent crime alerts and the daily crime log provide information about recent incidents on and near campus. The Annual Security Report provides crime statistics and information on campus safety services.

Prepare

Active Shooter Preparedness

To be prepared for an active shooter incident on campus, remember “Run, Hide, Fight” as your three options. [Review training videos](#) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Ready Houston, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Campus Emergency Plans

AU Emergency Preparedness has developed plans and procedures for critical incidents such as tornados, earthquakes, and criminal incidents. Review the plans at www.american.edu/emergency.

Fire Safety

Know two ways out of your sleeping area, classroom, or office. Learn where fire extinguishers and fire alarms are located in buildings you frequent. When the fire alarm sounds, exit the building by the closest emergency exit.

Prevent

Bicycle Registration

Register your bicycle with AU Police for free [online](#) and receive a decal. Registration assists in the recovery of stolen bicycles.

Absolute LoJack

By registering your laptop through the Absolute LoJack service, you safeguard your personal information and aid in its recovery if stolen. Review subscription options for the service [online](#).

Safe Ride to Campus

The [Safe Ride to Campus program](#) provides students with a taxi ride back to campus, billed to your student account. Call (202) 885-2527 to request the service.

Safety Escorts

AU Police Officers provide walking and vehicular escorts to and from campus property for all community members. Call (202) 885-2527 to request an escort.

Physical Security

Access control, alarm monitoring, and video surveillance provide additional security on campus through 24/7 monitoring. The physical system systems on campus have been expanded significantly and upgraded in the past three years.

Respond

Police, Medical and Fire Response

AU Police provides 24/7 response on all campus properties for police, medical, and fire emergencies. AU police officers are commissioned by the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia and are fully empowered to enforce the law, investigate criminal acts, and make arrests on campus and at all AU-owned and leased properties within the city. In addition, AU police also may place student conduct charges for violations both on and off campus. AU Police coordinates emergency response with external agencies like the D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department.

Investigation

AU Police Officers and Investigators investigate all crimes that occur on campus. In cooperation with the U.S. Attorney's Office and D.C. Office of Attorney General, we obtain arrest warrants upon completion of a criminal investigation. Certain crimes require coordination with the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia.

Victim Assistance

Victims of any crime are provided care and assistance throughout the criminal justice process. AU Police coordinates counseling resources through Campus Life, Counseling Center, and the Wellness Center, as well as community resources. We provide information and guidance on obtaining protective orders, including transportation to court. Personalized safety plans and self-defense courses are available to crime victims. Call (202) 885-2527 to request victim assistance services from AU Police.

AED – Automatic External Defibrillators

The AU Public Access AED Program provides Automatic External Defibrillators housed in specially marked and strategically located cabinets in key buildings around the campus. AEDs are located near the building's main entrance. AEDs can be used by any member of the public to provide emergency assistance to someone suffering from cardiac arrest.

Pedestrian Safety

Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues bisect our campus. These thoroughfares carry heavy volumes of vehicular traffic through the area and converge at Ward Circle. The design of Ward Circle and the volume of traffic on adjacent streets makes pedestrian safety awareness a critical issue.

The following link provides useful information:

<http://bestreetsmart.net/walk.php>

In addition, a new mid-block traffic control device has been installed on Nebraska Avenue to allow pedestrians to cross safely. The following link offers information on how the light functions:

[https://comp.ddot.dc.gov/Documents/Hawk Pedestrian Signal Guide.pdf](https://comp.ddot.dc.gov/Documents/Hawk%20Pedestrian%20Signal%20Guide.pdf)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ft32oY6r1fs>