

# Campus Safety



—an equal opportunity college—



## Table of Contents

About CF Public Safety .....	2
About Campus Safety .....	4
What is Personal Safety? .....	5
What Students can do to Promote Safety .....	5
Personal Safety on the Elevator .....	6
Personal Safety on the Street .....	7
Personal Safety on Public Transportation.....	8
Personal Safety in Your Vehicle.....	9
Personal Safety in Your Apartment .....	10
Personal Safety in Your Home .....	11
Exercising on Campus .....	12
Protect Your Personal Property .....	12
Campus Vandalism .....	13
Personal Safety and Strangers.....	14
Cyber Stalking .....	16
Identity Theft .....	17
Alcohol Abuse .....	18
Drinking and Driving.....	19
Acquaintance/Date Rape.....	20
Rape: Ways to Protect Yourself.....	22
Responding to an Attack.....	24
If You Have Been Attacked.....	25
Fire Safety .....	26
Websites for More Information .....	27
Conclusion .....	27

## About CF Public Safety

It is the policy of the CF District Board of Trustees to protect college property and community members. Under the direction of the vice president of administration and finance, the CF Public Safety department ensures that reasonable protection is provided by using methods that fit within and contribute to the educational philosophy and purpose of the college.

The Public Safety department and the contract security service are not police officers and are not empowered to make an arrest or investigate a crime. All public safety officers must possess a valid State of Florida Class D Security Officer License and are authorized to use reasonable force to detain a suspect pending arrival of law enforcement authorities. Public safety officers have received training specific to security, parking and first aid.

All campus crime must be reported to the Ocala Police Department at 352-369-7000, or 911 in an emergency. The Public Safety Department should also be notified as soon as possible of any incident occurring on campus.

CF recognizes that a safe environment is needed to accomplish the college's mission. To insure a safe environment the college provides campus security 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The entire campus is continually patrolled by public safety officers on a random basis. In addition to regular security, the Public Safety Department provides the following services:

**Escorts:** Escorts are provided to an individual if they feel unsafe on campus. Escorts can only be provided on the college campus. If you wish to receive an escort an officer can be reached at 352-237-2111 ext. 1422.

**Emergency Call Boxes:** Solar-powered emergency call boxes have been strategically placed around the campus and in various parking lots. Calls from the call boxes go directly to public safety officer radios. Call box names correspond to their location.



## **About Campus Safety**

Schools with aggressive crime reporting and a low tolerance for criminal behavior tend to provide safer places for students to focus on their educational goals. In this pamphlet, you will get good advice on how to help protect yourself on campus.

**The Jeanne Clery Act** championed by Howard & Connie Clery after their daughter Jeanne was murdered at Lehigh University in 1986, this act became a law in 1990 under President George Bush. This law provides several things for students:

**Crime Statistics.** Institutions must disclose campus crime statistics for the three previous calendar years in the following categories: homicide, sex offenses, robbery, assault, burglary, vehicle theft and arson. They are also required to provide statistics for alcohol, drug and weapons possession arrests or referrals for campus disciplinary action.

**Timely Warnings.** Institutions must, in a manner that is timely and will aid in the prevention of similar crime, report to the campus community on crimes that are covered by this act, reported to campus security authorities, and considered by the institution to represent a threat to students and employees.

**Policy Disclosures.** In addition to the disclosure of known crime statistics, various policies such as to whom crimes should be reported and a description of the campus security arrangement are also required. Schools are also required to maintain a daily public crime log.

**Campus Sexual Assault Victims Bill of Rights.** Security policies must specifically address sex offense prevention. In cases of alleged sexual assault, the accuser and accused must have the same opportunity to have others present, both parties must be informed of the outcome of any disciplinary proceeding, and survivors must be informed of their options with regard to notifying law enforcement, obtaining counseling and changing academic living situations.

## **What is Personal Safety?**

Personal safety is being aware of your surroundings at all times and taking preventive steps to insure your well being.

1. Prevention is the number one step in protecting yourself against crime.
2. Know what to do if you become a victim of crime.
3. Trust your instincts.
4. Avoid situations that will put you in danger.
5. Take measures to insure the safety of your home.
6. Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you.
7. Use common sense.

In this pamphlet, we will give you some tips on how to help protect yourself from crime in different situations.

## **What Students can do to Promote Campus Safety**

1. Know who you are befriending, whether in person or on the Internet. Do not disclose personal information or place yourself in a vulnerable situation until you know people well. If their opinions and actions are inconsistent with yours limit or discontinue interactions.
2. Exercise caution when having your photo appear in campus publications.
3. Determine and use the safest routes between your residence, work, classes and activity locations. Are emergency telephones available? Are walkways frequently traveled or somewhat isolated? Are parking lots well lit and patrolled frequently? If you need to seek help quickly, are there places nearby where people tend to congregate?

4. Create a “buddy” system by sharing your schedule with parents, roommates and close friends. Advise your roommate or leave a timed and dated note if you intend to change your normal schedule, particularly if you will not return in the evening. Give a network list of telephone numbers to your parents, academic advisor and friends.
5. Whenever possible, travel in groups use the campus escort service (SAFE) after daylight hours. Avoid shortcuts and walking alone at night.
6. Never leave valuable possessions (e.g. wallet, jewelry) in open view.
7. Program emergency numbers that include family and close friends into your telephone’s speed dial.
8. Learn basic escape techniques and occasionally practice them to maintain proficiency.
9. Promptly report suspicious activities or unlawful conduct. Doing so can make a difference!
10. If you intend to live off campus, carefully evaluate facilities and ensure that they meet your minimum safety standards.

### **Personal Safety on the Elevator**

- Observe the elevator interior before entering.
- Wait until the next elevator if you are uncertain of any occupant.
- If a suspicious person enters the elevator, exit before the door closes.
- Women riding the elevator alone should try to stand near the control panel. If accosted, press all buttons.
- Before exiting the elevator, observe the corridor for suspicious activity.
- Don’t ride the elevator with a stranger alone.
- Get on the elevator with a group of other people if possible.

## **Personal Safety on the Street**

- When leaving home, make sure all doors and windows are locked, including the garage door.
- If possible, travel with a companion; this is especially important when it is dark outside.
- At night, travel only well-lighted and well-traveled streets; avoid unlighted areas, walk in the middle of the sidewalk, and never linger in deserted areas.
- Wear a “fanny pack” instead of carrying a purse. This leaves both hands free and makes it difficult to steal.
- If you suspect you are being followed, turn and walk quickly in the opposite direction, and go to a well-lighted and well-populated area.
- Don’t carry more money than you actually need. Don’t carry credit cards if you aren’t planning to use them.
- Walk on the side of the street facing oncoming traffic. This will prevent a car from sneaking up on you.
- Be aware of locations and situations that would make you vulnerable to crime, such as alleyways and dark parking lots.
- Don’t use an ATM on the street or behind a building. Go to one located inside a mall where better security is provided.
- If you carry a purse, carry it securely between your arm and body. Although a purse snatcher’s intent is to steal the purse, your personal safety may depend on not clinging to it.
- Do not make yourself an obvious target. Avoid wearing expensive, noticeable clothing or jewelry if you are going to be on the street.

## **Personal Safety on Public Transportation**

By following these tips, you can help insure your safety when riding public transportation.

- While waiting for a bus or streetcar, stand away from the curb near others who are waiting.
- If the immediate area is deserted or in darkness, stand near an occupied building or in a lighted area until transportation arrives.
- Know the bus or train schedule ahead of time, so you aren't forced to wait longer than necessary.
- Travel with a companion whenever possible.
- If the vehicle is empty or nearly empty, sit as far up front and as close to the driver as possible.
- If someone begins to bother you, notify the driver immediately.
- Don't sleep or become too involved with reading while traveling. Stay alert, and be aware of the people around you.
- Carry your wallet inside your coat or in a front pocket. A comb, placed horizontally in the fold of your wallet will alert you if someone tries to remove it from your pocket.
- Keep your purse in front of you, and hold it close to your body with both hands.
- Check your purse or wallet if someone is jostling, crowding or pushing you.
- If you see any suspicious activity, tell the driver.

## Personal Safety in Your Vehicle

- Make sure your car is always in good working order, with safe tires and an adequate amount of gasoline for planned trip.
- Always check your car before getting in. Make sure there is no one hiding inside or under it.
- Have your keys in your hand and ready before arriving at your car.
- When driving your car, keep the doors locked and the windows rolled up.
- It is best to park in attended lots. If you must leave a key with the attendant, leave only the ignition key. In other cases, lock your car.
- At night, park only in lighted areas.
- Do not leave packages or personal items in open view in the car. Place them in the trunk.
- If you are in danger of being harmed while in your car, start sounding your horn until assistance arrives.
- **If you have car trouble:**
  - \* Keep your doors locked and stay in your car.
  - \* If someone stops to offer assistance, ask them to call the highway patrol, the local police or the auto club.
  - \* Hang a white handkerchief or on your radio antenna as a distress signal.
  - \* Speak from inside your locked car, with the window rolled down just enough to communicate.
- Don't stop to assist a motorist stranded on the side of the road -it could be a ploy. Go to a phone and request help for them.
- Keep a spare set of car keys with you. If you lose one set or lock yourself out of your car, you'll be able to get going much more quickly.
- **Never, never** pick up strangers.

## **Personal Safety in Your Apartment**

- When you move into a new apartment, always change the locks, or ask the landlord if they can change them for you.
- Never admit anyone unless you are expecting or know the person.
- Anyone asking admission so that he can do work for another tenant should not be admitted. They should be referred to the manager.
- If you see someone in your building who looks out of place or is acting suspiciously, contact the police by calling 911.

**Apartment Watch** is a crime-prevention program that enlists the active participation of citizens, in cooperation with law enforcement, to reduce crime in a community.

### **It involves:**

- Neighbors getting to know each other and working together in a program of mutual assistance.
- Citizens being trained to recognize and report suspicious activity and identify vehicles that are not usually in the complex.
- The implementation of crime prevention techniques, such as home security, Operation Identification, etc.

### **Front door safety:**

- Never automatically open your front door. Make sure you know your caller's identity before admitting him/her.
- If the person at your door is a stranger, ask for identification to be passed under the door. If they are unable to do this, do not admit them.
- It is advisable to have a peephole in the door so that you can check a person's identity without unlocking it.
- If someone comes to your door and asks to use the phone, offer to make the call for them, while they wait outside.

## **Personal Safety in Your Home**

- Have good locks on all doors and windows, and use them.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot or on the ledge of a door.
- Your garage doors should have good locks.
- Mark all valuable property with your Driver's License number or a Department of Motor Vehicles Personal Identification Card number.
- Be a concerned neighbor. If you see a suspicious person, car or situation, contact the police.
- Always close your drapes or blinds at night to help eliminate "peeping tom" incidents.
- If you live alone, use initials of your first name rather than your full name in the telephone directory or on your mailbox. If a number on your mailbox will do, leave the name off entirely.
- Never give information about yourself over the phone, particularly personal ID.
- Never let an unidentified caller know you are home alone. If they ask for your husband, just say he is in the shower, mowing the lawn, etc., instead of saying he is not home or you are not married.
- Use your telephone answering machine for security and convenience.
  - \* Indicate you are too busy to take the call.
  - \* Use "we" instead of "I."
- When leaving on a trip:
  - \* Stop all deliveries.
  - \* Connect a light to a timer.
  - \* Notify the police, and have a neighbor check your home periodically.
  - \* Have someone maintain your lawn.

**Participate in a neighborhood watch.**

## **Exercising on Campus**

Whether you're an athlete, student or employee, exercising on campus is a good behavior, but sometimes joggers and walkers get lulled into a "zone" where they are so focused on exercising that they forget about their surroundings. This makes you vulnerable for attacks.

### **Tips for Exercising Safely:**

- Tell a friend or family member where you will be exercising or exercise with a partner.
- Wear reflective material that's visible to traffic.
- Carry some form of identification.
- Exercise in a familiar place.
- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Don't use public parks at night.
- Don't use headphones. They prevent you from hearing someone coming up behind you.
- If exercising on campus, know where the emergency call boxes are located, and use the running paths that the college offers for exercise.
- Avoid unpopulated areas, wooded, hedged areas of the running path. Avoid running at dawn and dusk, because it is easier for muggers and other criminals to hide.

## **Protect Your Personal Property**

- Engrave items with an ID number.
- Don't leave your books, backpacks, purses, etc. alone in libraries, classrooms or vehicles.

**Your Bicycle:**

- Always lock it, even if you are only going to be gone for just a few minutes.
- Lock it securely through both wheels and the frame. Use a U-shaped bike lock to connect it to an immovable object.
- Record the description, serial number, registration number and keep these records in a safe spot.
- Engrave your bike with your ID number.

**Your Vehicle:**

- Always lock your vehicle and take the keys with you. Many car thieves don't even have to break in.
- Lock your valuables in the trunk so a thief won't be tempted to break in.
- Park in well-lighted areas where there are plenty of passersby.

## **Campus Vandalism**

Report any suspicious people, activities, vandalism or theft to the CF Public Safety Department at 352-237-2111 extension 1261 or 1422.

Destruction of property can interrupt your learning and social life. Report any instances of vandalism to school authorities immediately.

Anyone who steals equipment, furniture, or books from campus is actually stealing from you! Everyone deserves the right to use school facilities at their best.

When equipment, books or furniture that students need for class are stolen or vandalized, it not only costs the college, it costs the student.

## **Personal Safety and Strangers**

### **Who is a stranger?**

We take it for granted that everyone knows a stranger when they see one. It is when children are alone or with their friends that we become concerned and worry if they have the ability to use reasonable judgment. Our children are the most important thing to us. Too often, young children and young adults trust a kind stranger.

Since child abduction is unfortunately with us, the best defense against it is to teach children how to avoid it. Take time to listen to your children no matter what age they are. Role playing is a proven method to help your child deal effectively with life's unpleasant realities.

### **As a Parent, you should:**

- Teach your children their full name, your full name, address, and telephone number.
- Teach them how to reach either you or a trusted adult and how to call for police assistance.
- Teach your children to use both push-button and rotary telephones.
- Make sure they know how to make a local and long-distance telephone call. Even a small child can be taught to dial 911. If a child calls 911, police will have the address where he/she is calling from. If they are at a phone booth, they do not have to use money.
- Listen attentively if your children talk about anyone they encounter in your absence. Advise the school, as well as law enforcement, of any suspicious persons or circumstances.
- Establish strict procedures for picking your children up at school. Establish a family secret code word. Inform your children to never go with anyone who does not know the code word.

- Have photographs of your children taken at least four times a year. Make note of birthmarks and other distinguishing features.
- Practice how to get out of the house in case of an emergency with your children .
- Open communication is the key!

**Rules for children and young adults:**

- Do not talk to strangers (men, women or children).
- If a stranger tries to talk to you, say, “No, get away!” Then tell someone you know and trust.
- Never get into a stranger’s car or go near it. Never take candy, gifts or money from a stranger. Never help a stranger look for, or take care of, a lost or injured pet.
- Always remember to tell your parents where you are going and whom you are going with.
- Do not play in isolated or construction areas.
- Talk to your parents, and get a secret code or password.
- Walk or play with a friend—this is called the “buddy system.”
- While shopping, stay close to your parents or friends. If separated, go to a store clerk.
- Know where the list of emergency telephone numbers is located.
- Never tell anyone your name over the telephone.
- Don’t let a stranger into your home.
- Never tell anyone that you are home alone.

**Remember a stranger is someone you don’t know!**

## **Cyber Stalking**

Cyber Stalking is the use of the Internet, e-mail, chat rooms, message boards and discussion forms to threaten, harass or stalk another person. Cyber Stalking is different from traditional stalking in that the stalker can be thousands of miles away or in a dorm room next to you. It is relatively easy for stalkers to find information including your name, address and phone number online if they are Internet savvy.

### **Cyber Stalking Victims:**

- 48 percent are between the ages of 18 and 30.
- 83 percent are female.
- 43 percent are single.
- 78 percent are Caucasian.
- 50 percent of victims report that they had prior contact with the stalker.

### **What Can You Do?**

- Pick a username for your e-mail that does not reveal your gender, age, or geographic area.
- Do not fill out 'profiles' that reveal personal details when signing up for your main e-mail account.
- Do not assume that people online in chat rooms or via mail list, Instant messenger programs are telling you the truth. Do not give them personal information about yourself.
- Be extremely cautious about meeting online acquaintances in person.
- Save all communications for evidence.

## **Identity Theft**

One of the fastest growing crimes in the world, identity theft is a crime in which an imposter obtains key pieces of information about you and uses them for personal gain. The most targeted types of information an imposter looks for are Social Security number, credit card numbers, driver's license number, other identifying information.

### **Ways to Prevent Identity Theft:**

- Don't give out personal information on the phone or Internet.
- Don't carry unnecessary identification information and credit cards.
- Don't carry your Social Security card; leave it in a secure place at home. Give your SSN only when absolutely necessary.
- Never print your SSN, date of birth or credit card account number on your checks.
- Secure all personal information in your home, especially if you have roommates.
- Guard you mail and trash from theft. Put your mail in a post office collection box or in the college mailroom drop box. Tear or shred any personal information such as expired credit cards and receipts.
- Place passwords for credit cards and ATM cards in a safe place.
- Know when your billing cycles are and notify your creditor if you have not received your bill on time.
- Be wary of promotional scams.
- Keep your purse or wallet in a safe place when at school or work.
- When ordering new checks pick them up at your bank.
- Protect your computer with a firewall.

## **Alcohol Abuse**

### **Binge Drinking**

Binge drinking is the act of consuming more than four drinks in two hours. Forty-three percent of college students say they binge drink and 21 percent say they binge drink frequently. As many as 360,000 of the nation's 12 million undergraduates will ultimately die from alcohol-related causes. This is more than the total number who will be awarded advanced degrees.

### **Signs of Alcohol Poisoning:**

- Unconscious or semi consciousness
- Mental confusion, stupor, coma, or person cannot be roused
- Vomiting
- Seizures
- Slow breathing (fewer than eight breaths per minute)
- Irregular breathing (10 seconds or more between breaths)

### **Dangers of Alcohol Poisoning:**

- Victim could choke on his or her own vomit
- Breathing slows down, becomes irregular, or stops
- Heart beats irregularly or stops
- Hypothermia or low body temperature
- Seizures due to hypoglycemia or too little blood sugar, or dehydration
- Permanent brain damage or death

### **In the Event of Alcohol Poisoning:**

- Call 911
- Turn the intoxicated person on his or her side and maintain that position by placing a pillow in the small of the person's back.
- Stay with the person until medical help arrives.
- If a person appears to be "sleeping it off", make sure he or she is conscious. Even though a person may be semi-conscious, alcohol already in the stomach may continue to enter the bloodstream and circulate throughout the body.

## **Drinking and Driving**

### **How Big is the Problem Among Young Adults?**

- The highest intoxication rates in fatal crashes in 2001 were recorded for drivers 21 to 24 years old.
- In 2002, 27 percent of young male drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking at the time of the crash, compared with 11 percent of young female drivers involved in fatal crashes.
- 1,400 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related, unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes.

### **How Can You Prevent Drinking and Driving?**

1. Stash cab fare away so you won't be tempted to spend it before the end of the night.
2. Have everyone in your group of friends take turns being the designated driver for the night. Treat this person to free non-alcoholic beverages throughout the night.
3. Never ride with a drunk driver. The driver may seem okay to drive but do not risk your life.
4. Be a friend, take the keys of someone who has had too much to drink and find them a safe ride home.

### **How Can You Prevent Drinking and Driving at a Party?**

1. Collect keys or encourage some of your guests to remain sober and be designated drivers.
2. Avoid drinking games.
3. Pace your friends to one or two drinks per hour, and encourage them to drink non-alcoholic beverages in between.
4. Don't feel pressured to serve anyone who has already had enough to drink.

## **Acquaintance/Date Rape**

There is a misconception that acquaintance/date rape is not as serious, not as criminal, and not as damaging to the victim as stranger rape. These is a dangerous misconception. Rape is a felony, regardless of the offender's relationship to the victim. Acquaintance/date rape is just as serious and just as devastating to the victim as stranger rape.

### **How to Prevent Date Rape:**

- When you go to a party, go with a group of friends. watch out for each other and arrive and leave together.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Don't allow yourself to be isolated with someone you don't know or trust.
- Think about the level of intimacy you want in a relationship, and clearly state your limits.
- Know that sex is not a male entitlement. You can say "no" at any time.
- If you feel pressured, afraid or uncomfortable, leave, get help or protest loudly.
- Be clear about your desires, limits and expectations.
- Don't listen to persuasion. Do not be afraid to set limits.
- Realize that consent to some sexual activity does NOT imply consent to all kinds of sexual activity.

**Date Rape Drugs:** Date rape drugs are categorized as prescription, often illegal drugs, that produce various effects on the body, most often sedative or depressing, and are often used in rape situations.

1. They are usually odorless, colorless and tasteless and most often they are crushed and added to drinks, including water, without detection.
2. The effects vary depending on the drug, and can include amnesia, memory impairment, drowsiness, dizziness,

confusion, nausea, hallucinations, a sense of euphoria, delayed reaction time, and coma.

3. Some common date drugs include Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate (GHB), Rohypnol, MDMA (Ecstasy) and Ketamine.
4. Some other common names for date rape drugs are “roofies,” “rope” and “liquid X.”

**How to Protect Yourself:**

1. Don't accept drinks that you did not open yourself.
2. Don't exchange or share drinks with anyone.
3. Don't drink from a container that is being passed around.
4. Never consume a drink that you have not mixed yourself or have watched someone else mix.
5. Use the “buddy” system if you are in a place where alcohol is being served. Stay with a good friend and watch out for each other.
6. Don't leave your drink unattended. If you need to leave your drink for any reason, have a trusted person watch it for you.
7. If a drink tastes, looks or smells in any way unusual, stop drinking and report it to the host or responsible person. If you suspect a friend may have been drugged, contact the police.
8. If you feel disoriented or strange, in any way, after having consumed only a small or moderate amount of alcohol, seek the aid of a trusted person and get immediate medical assistance. Vice versa, if a friend's behavior is abnormal in relation to the amount of alcohol consumed, make sure he or she stops drinking immediately and seeks medical assistance.

## **Rape: Ways to Protect Yourself**

### **Most rape victims are raped by someone they know.**

Rape is a violent crime and is a very frightening experience. All women are potential victims of a sexual assault. Staying alert and being aware of your surroundings can reduce the likelihood of becoming a rape victim. However, no matter how alert and aware you are, you cannot prevent all rapes from happening. One major important thing to remember is that rapists commit rape, not the victim.

Rape is one of the fastest rising crimes in the United States. Here are some tips you can use to prevent and prepare for an attack.

### **Tips for psychological preparedness:**

- Accept the fact that you are a potential rape victim. Never think that it can't happen to you.
- Educate yourself in rape prevention tactics.
- Know where your community's rape prevention and counseling programs are.
- Be aware of locations and situations where rape is more likely to occur, and avoid them or take precautions when having to go there.

### **Tips for prevention:**

- Always walk at a steadfast pace and appear confident and purposeful; a rapist looks for a passive victim.
- Always stay in well-lit areas.
- Do not take shortcuts through a deserted area.
- Walk near curbs and avoid passing close to shrubbery, dark doorways and places that would be a good concealment for a rapist.
- If you're being followed by a vehicle, turn around and walk in the opposite direction.
- Never enter a stranger's vehicle, even if your vehicle is broken down.
- Always have your key ready to enter your residence or car.

- If you are being forced into a vehicle on a city street, remember that your chances of getting help are better than in a deserted area where the rapist may plan to take you. So make as much noise as possible.
- Never pick up a hitchhiker.
- If you have to go out at night, always park in a well-lit area where you can be seen when returning to your vehicle.
- Before entering your vehicle, always look in the back seat and floor board.
- Keep another source of communication like a cell phone with you, even at home in case the phone lines are cut.

The best resistance you can use against an attacker is your common sense. **Think! Don't panic.** The most important element to remember is that you are not trying to fight the attacker, you are attempting to divert the person long enough to get away. Always look for a way to escape. Break away and run toward areas where there are people. At the same time, be observant so you can remember and identify your assailant. If the attacker has a weapon, use your common sense.

**Three things to remember:**

- If attacked, escape.
- If trapped, stay alive.
- If assaulted, memorize details.

**Information needed by the police in order to catch and convict a rapist:**

- Type of vehicle used by the rapist (license, make or model, color).
- Direction of travel.
- Race, age, weight and height.
- Color of eyes, hair and length of hair.
- Clothing, unusual marks, scars, tattoos, rings, etc.
- Facial hair.

## **Responding to an Attack**

Increasing personal safety involves two different aspects of knowledge.

Preventing crime and knowing what to do if you are a victim of a crime.

### **Things to do when responding to an attack:**

- Your first goal is to escape and survive.
- Calmly evaluate your situation to determine avenues of escape or help.
- Plan a realistic response to the attack.
- All situations and people are different. Don't expose yourself to greater harm.
- Give up your possessions if asked. They can be replaced... your life cannot!!
- Try to get a good description of your attacker from top to bottom; hair color, eye color, race, height, weight, age, scars anything that would help police identify your attacker.

Think what you would do if someone attacked you. Could you fight back, or would you avoid resisting and wait to escape? Only you can decide whether to fight back, but preparing yourself for all possibilities could provide a split second advantage.

- If someone threatens you, shout and scream for help and set off your personal attack alarm if you have one. This may unnerve the attacker and frighten him off.
- You have every right to defend yourself with reasonable force, items like an umbrella, hairspray or keys can be used against the attacker. This law, however, doesn't allow carrying anything that can be described as an offensive weapon.

## **If You Have Been Attacked**

Assaults and attacks are serious crimes, whether they are committed by a stranger or someone that you know. In case of an assault, please follow these directions in getting help as soon as possible.

- Call the police straightaway. They need your help to catch the attacker.
- Take the name or address of any witnesses.
- Try to remember exactly what the attacker looked like.
- If a car was involved, try to note the color, make and model.
- You do not need to go to the police station to report an assault - you can be interviewed in your own home if you wish. These crimes are dealt with sympathetically, regardless of sex. Police stations have specially trained officers who will help and support you. Many areas have comfortable victim suites, separate from the police station, where you can be interviewed privately.
- Although your immediate reaction will be to bathe, try not to if you can possibly help it. It will destroy vital medical evidence that will help prove the case against the person who raped or assaulted you.
- Should your case come to trial, by law, your anonymity will be guaranteed if you are female, or under 18 years of age. The law forbids newspapers to publish anything that might identify you. Also, as a general rule, you should not be asked about your previous sexual history in court.
- If the violence is within your family, legal protection is possible under civil or criminal law. In some cases, for example, they can require a husband or partner not to enter your home, or even your neighborhood.

## Fire Safety

### Ways to Prevent Fires on Campus:

- Smoke only in designated areas.
- Never light candles, incense or bottled gases.
- Do not overload plug outlets.
- Always make sure curling iron, hot plates, irons and other small appliances are turned off and unplugged before you leave your residence.
- Make sure you dispose of garbage properly.

### If You Discover a Fire:

- Know the locations of fire extinguishers, exits and alarms in your building or dorm.
- Sound the alarm.
- Leave the building immediately.
- Never re-enter a burning building.

### If You're Inside a Burning Building:

- Use the fire exits, **never** use the elevator.
- If the room is filled with smoke, crawl beneath the smoke to the nearest door.
- Touch the door and doorknob with the back of your hand. If the door or doorknob is warm, **do not** open the door.
- If you cannot leave the room, close all doors and open windows at the top and bottom. Hang an item out of the window to attract attention and shout for help.
- **Never** open a window if smoke is entering in the room.

## **Websites For More Information**

### **Cyber Stalking**

Cyberangels [www.cyberangels.org](http://www.cyberangels.org)  
National Center for Victims of Crime [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)  
Wired Patrol [www.wiredpatrol.org](http://www.wiredpatrol.org)  
Witness Justice [www.witnessjustice.org](http://www.witnessjustice.org)

### **Identity Theft**

USSA Educational Foundation [www.usaaedfoundation.org](http://www.usaaedfoundation.org)  
Identity Theft Resource Center [www.idtheftcenter.org](http://www.idtheftcenter.org)  
U.S. Department of Justice [www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov)

### **Acquaintance/Date Rape**

National Institute on Drug Abuse  
[www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/clubdrugs.html/](http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/clubdrugs.html/)  
Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)  
National Center for Victims of Crime [www.nvc.org](http://www.nvc.org)

## **Conclusion**

Campus violence is a complex problem across the nation, and there are no easy answers as to how to fix the problem. Prevention and intervention is the best way to have and keep a safe campus. A safe campus environment is one in which students, faculty and staff are free to pursue an education and work, both inside and outside classrooms and work stations. Personal safety is a basic human need that must be preserved if the mission of the college is to be pursued.

The Public Safety Department at the College of Central Florida will do everything possible to help keep students, faculty and staff safe, but they also need your help by reporting incidents that occur on campus.

If you have any questions you may contact the manager of public safety at 352-237-2111 ext. 1242.

