

# RU Safe

Radford University Police Department  
Spring 2011

## What Is Suspicious?

When you consider reporting suspicious activity to police, what exactly is suspicious? You should be alert to anything that seems even slightly out of the ordinary for the area or time of day in which it occurs. The most obvious things to watch for are:

- Strangers entering your neighbor's room or apartment when it should be unoccupied
- Strangers on your block trying doors to see if they are locked
- Screams heard anywhere, anytime
- The sound of breaking glass or other loud explosive noises
- Someone carrying tools around bike racks
- Someone following you

While some of these may have innocent explanations, your police department would rather investigate situations than be called when it is too late to intervene.

## Did You Know...

The Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley serves the communities of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, Montgomery, the City of Radford, and Radford University. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic or sexual violence, the WRC provides the following services free of charge:

- 24-Hour Crisis Hotline
- Crisis Intervention
- Emergency Advocacy
- Emergency Shelter
- Legal Advocacy
- Counseling
- Support Groups
- Transitional Housing
- Children's Services



### Welcome!

Please take a few minutes to read the RUPD newsletter. As always, input and suggestions are welcome.

#### This Issue:

What is Suspicious? P.1  
Dating Safety P.2  
Protecting Yourself P.3  
Upcoming Events P.4

### Crime Statistics

Daily crime statistics and the Annual Safety & Security Report are available on our website at:

<http://police.asp.radford.edu/>

Join us today on **Facebook** at the Radford University Police Department page. You can also follow us on Twitter at RadfordUPolice.

# Dating Safety

Consider the following tips to help you stay safe in your dating relationships.

Consider double-dating the first few times you go out with a new person.

Before leaving on a date, know the exact plans for the evening and make sure a parent or friend knows these plans and what time to expect you home. Let your date know that you are expected to call or tell that person when you get in.

Be aware of your decreased ability to react under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

If you leave a party with someone you do not know well, make sure you tell another person you are leaving and with whom. Ask a friend to call and make sure you arrived home safely.

Assert yourself when necessary. Be firm and straightforward in your relationships.

Trust your instincts. If a situation makes you uncomfortable, try to be calm and think of a way to remove yourself from the situation.

Early warning signs that your date may eventually become abusive:

- Extreme jealousy
- Controlling behavior
- Quick involvement
- Unpredictable mood swings
- Alcohol and drug use
- Explosive anger
- Isolates you from friends and family
- Uses force during an argument
- Shows hypersensitivity
- Believes in rigid sex roles
- Blames others for his problems or feelings
- Cruel to animals or children
- Verbally abusive
- Abused former partners
- Threatens violence

## Counseling Resources

### On Campus:

SAVES on campus provides counseling, advocacy and support for sexual assault and dating violence victims. They can be reached at 540-831-5709.

The Office of Student Counseling Services is located in Tyler Hall and can be reached at 540-831-5226.

### Off Campus:

The Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley provides a 24 hour crisis hotline. The hotline can be reached at 540-639-1123. Translators are available via AT&T Language Lines for non-English speaking callers.

# Protect Yourself From Violent Crime

- Don't walk or jog early in the morning or late at night when the streets are deserted.
- When out at night, try to have a friend walk with you.
- Carry only the money you'll need on a particular day.
- Don't display your cash or any other inviting targets such as pagers, cell phones, hand-held electronic games, or expensive jewelry and clothing.
- If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street. If the person continues to follow you, move quickly toward an open store or restaurant or a lighted house. Don't be afraid to yell for help.
- Try to park in well-lighted areas with good visibility and close to walkways, stores, and people.
- Make sure you have your key out as you approach your door.
- Always lock your car, even if it's in your own driveway; never leave your motor running.
- Do everything you can to keep a stranger from getting into your car or to keep a stranger from forcing you into his or her car.
- If a dating partner has abused you, do not meet him or her alone. Do not let him or her in your home or car when you are alone.
- If someone tries to rob you, give up your property—don't give up your life.
- If you are robbed or assaulted, report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent someone else from becoming a victim.

From the National Crime Prevention Council

## DID YOU KNOW....

...the Radford University Police Department is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to emergencies and calls for service? Put RUPD in your cell phone's speed dial today! 540-831-5500

....If you have questions about safety and security or would like to request a program for your office or group, contact Sergeant Scott D. Shaffer at the Radford University Police Department's Crime Prevention and Community Outreach Office. He can be reached Monday-Friday during normal business hours and by email at [sshaffer@radford.edu](mailto:sshaffer@radford.edu). Or visit our website and use the online lecture request form. Programs are available about alcohol awareness, safety and security, identity theft and many others. Programs can be modified and designed to meet your needs.

## Upcoming Events

### Spring Break 2011!! March 5– March 13

Remember to secure your belongings in your room before leaving for break. When checking out for break, students on first floor Residence Hall rooms are asked to lower and close all blinds. Students above the first floor should open their blinds.

### Spring Commencement 05/07/2011

Watch for parking information and allow extra time for travelling in and around Radford during exam week and on Commencement day.

### Safety on the Roadway

1. Always use your safety belt and make your passengers use theirs as well.
2. Allow extra travel time during inclement weather.
3. Don't be distracted by cell phones, mp3 players, etc. Give all of your attention to the road.
4. Carry a blanket and extra clothing in your car during cold weather in case you are stranded.

## Radford University Police Department

Allen Building, East Main Street  
PO Box 6883  
Radford, VA 24142

540-831-5500