Did You Know...

...that the Radford University Police Department has a **Special Weapons and Tactics Team**? This group of highly trained officers are equipped to work in even the most difficult of circumstances. With specialized weaponry and equipment, the team is a powerful crime-fighting unit that uses practical training scenarios to prepare for high-risk incident responses. In addition to in-house training, the team trains regionally with other teams in the area to increase efficiency when multiple jurisdictions are involved. From manhunts and rescue missions to criminal warrant service, this team is ready to respond.

Did You Know...

...that RUPD has a **Crisis Intervention Team** as part of the New River Valley CIT Program trained to deal with mental health and substance abuse issues? Team members are available to respond effectively and appropriately to individuals in crisis, bringing an element of understanding and compassion to these difficult situations. Benefits of this program include better training for officers in verbal de-escalation techniques, decrease in arrest rates and reported injuries for persons with mental illness, and declines in officer injury rates during crisis events. More information is available about CIT at:

http://www.mhanrv.org/crisis_intervention.html

We Are YOUR Police Department

Whether you are a student, employee, parent, or guardian, campus safety is everyone’s concern and responsibility. Our department is committed to maintaining a safe place for each of you to live, work and learn. To assist our department in being swift and efficient, please provide the following information to the communications officer when reporting a crime:

a) What you see and hear;
b) The location of the incident;
c) The number of people involved, and their description(s);
d) Description of a vehicle and license number; and
e) Your name and phone number.

Crime Statistics

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

http://police.asp.radford.edu/
Sexual Assaults

You are at a large gathering in a house near campus. There is this one person who you notice has been watching you all night. That person closes the gap between you and walks over. The conversation ends when the person forcefully grabs your buttocks, or worse, and squeezes. You are able to push away and free yourself. You tell the person to get lost and think no more of it.

What you may not know is you were sexually assaulted under Virginia law. Anyone who uses force, threat, intimidation or ruse to intentionally touch another person’s intimate parts, is guilty of sexual battery in Virginia. If you write this off as “no big deal,” then others will continue to be victimized.

When students hear sexual assault, they often assume we are speaking of forcible rape. That is not always the case. Many different scenarios can be defined under Virginia Law as sexual abuse. What remains constant is how you can protect yourself.

We have heard it from early childhood. Don’t walk alone. Stay in groups. Use the buddy system. It is time we revisit those messages. We are adults and are responsible for our own behavior and ultimately our own safety. Law enforcement cannot be everywhere at all times, so you need to take charge and take care of one another on and around campus.

Many sexual assaults around college campuses involve the use of alcohol by one or both parties. If you choose to drink, stay with friends who can help monitor your consumption and help you make responsible decisions. Don’t let friends step over the line!

The buddy system starts BEFORE you go out. Decide who you will go out with and stay with them! Do not “ditch” a friend once you are out. The buddy system only works when everyone agrees to stay together, and go home together.

Below are some additional tips to help you stay safe.

1. Don’t walk alone.
2. Walk with your head up and scan your surroundings for threats. Avoid shortcuts in the dark, and walk widely around large bushes, fences, etc. that could conceal someone.
3. Have police on speed dial.
4. Don’t use headphones or become so totally engrossed in your phone conversation that you aren’t paying attention.
5. If you see something suspicious or feel like you are being followed, call the police. Go to a well-lit occupied area and ask for help.

Resources

On Campus:

The Office of Alcohol & Other Drug Services provides counseling, advocacy and support for sexual assault victims. They are located in Tyler Hall and can be reached at 540-831-5709.

The Office of Student Counseling Services is also 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.
Holiday Safety

Here are some things to keep in mind for your safety as the holidays approach.

- Shop with family or friends if possible. There is safety in numbers. Be alert in crowded places: jammed aisles, elevators, public transportation.

- If someone makes you uncomfortable or the situation doesn’t seem right, trust your instincts and leave.

- Have your car or house key in hand before you reach the door. This reduces the time you are standing at the locked door searching for keys.

- Carry your purse close to your body and grip it tight. Do not hold your purse by the straps.

- When out shopping, be observant and aware of your surroundings. Avoid parking in isolated areas. Walk in lighted areas and on established paths.

- Lock purchases in your trunk.

- Keep wrapped gifts out of view so they can’t be seen from outside the home.

- Use ATM’s in public, well-lit areas. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card when possible.

DID YOU KNOW....

...that last year 77 thefts were reported on campus?
Always lock your doors and secure your belongings!

...that the emergency phones on campus connect you directly to the police department?
Make yourself familiar with the phone locations!

Program Requests

If you have questions about safety and security or would like to request a program for your office or group, contact Officer Scott D. Shaffer at the Radford University Police Department’s Crime Prevention Office. He can be reached Monday-Friday during normal business hours. 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

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.

Winter Commencement 12/19/2009
Watch for parking information and allow extra time for travelling in and around Radford during exam week and on Commencement day.

Winter Break 12/20/2009 - 1/18/2010

Safety on the Roadway

1. Always use your safety belt and make your passengers use theirs as well.
2. Allow extra travel time during the holiday season and 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.

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