SAFETY & SECURITY

Partners for a Safe and Secure Campus

Each individual resident of the campus residence halls has PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY for his or her own safety and security.

The University and the Department of Resident Life take certain reasonable steps that contribute to maintaining a safer and more secure environment. Staff, equipment, and information resources are provided to encourage behaviors that prevent dangerous situations and to assist if an emergency should occur. However, despite these reasonable and good-faith efforts, it is impossible to predict individual actions or guarantee absolute control that will assure that no unwanted acts or situations will ever occur. All the fire equipment in College Park cannot prevent a fire caused by a resident’s carelessness with a prohibited appliance or candle. Nor can all the police in College Park prevent a theft when a resident has left the room door unlocked and a wallet on the dresser while he or she is away from the room.

Remember, when one resident is careless – for example, fails to properly close and secure a building entrance door– all residents may be exposed to the consequences of this carelessness: an intruder slips in the door!

What service does the University provide?

Police

- 24-hour full-service police department, including a force of 70 uniformed officers and approximately 100 police aides
- 911 emergency calls (police, fire, rescue, ambulance)
- dusk to dawn patrols by police officers in marked and unmarked cars, motorcycles and bicycles
- security escorts by uniformed police officers (24 hours) and police aides
- dozens of outdoor emergency phones to call escorts or summon police
- surveillance cameras that monitor selected on-campus locations
- Crime Alerts are provided to give the University community timely notification of crimes that may present a threat to the campus community and to heighten safety awareness
- UMD Alerts is an alert system that allows UMD to provide emergency notifications via email, text, and other means. To sign up, please visit: alert.umd.edu
- crime prevention programs
- crime statistics published every year, in compliance with federal regulations

Residence Halls

- entrance doors locked 24 hours
- access cards or keys are needed to open entrance doors, call the elevator, open doors leading to stairwells and first-floor rooms, and open bedroom doors
• telephones near many entrance doors for visitors to use, then wait to be accompanied into the building
• 24-hour Service Center [(301) 314-WORK (9675)] for reporting problems with doors, keys, etc. (South Campus Commons residents should report problems to the appropriate 24-hour Commons Service Desk.)
• 24-hour residence hall desk staff for getting immediate help from a staff member
• repairs/replacements of doors, keys, locks, window screens, etc.
• nightly roves by the Resident Assistant(s) on duty
• periodic safety walk-throughs to check interior lighting, exit signs, fire doors, stairwells, etc.
• unit meetings, educational programs, flyers, and notifications of serious incidents

Shuttle-UM Buses
• stop outside most residence halls every 15-20 minutes 5:30pm-3:00am daily on fixed routes which include libraries, student union, College Park’s shopping district, and dozens of campus destinations
• Shuttle-UM vans [(301) 314-NITE (6483)] provide curb-to-curb service for individual callers
• bus drive-throughs of main roads and parking lots 5:30pm-7:00am daily

Personal Safety Precautions
• walk with friends or in a group, or call for an escort
• ride Shuttle-UM buses after dark, or call (301) 314-NITE (6483) for curb-to-curb service by Shuttle-UM vans
• walk in well-lit and well-traveled areas
• constantly be aware of your surroundings
• know the locations of the nearest emergency phones (police dispatcher answers)
• be wary of persons you don’t know
• report suspicious persons or activity to police
• stay away from relatively isolated areas
• plan what you will do if confronted by a potential assailant (run, scream, fight, try to gain his/her confidence while waiting for safe escape opportunity)

Missing Persons
Any time that Resident Life staff receive a report (e.g. from a roommate, friend, parent) that a resident has been out of contact and unreachable by phone, email, etc., our staff will take steps to respond to the report that include attempting to contact the missing student and notifying the University of Maryland Department of Public Safety and the Resident Life duty system about the missing student. Under federal law, you have the right to confidentially register with Resident Life and the University the name and contact information of an individual who you would like to have contacted (within 24 hours) if it is determined that you have been missing from the campus and your whereabouts unknown for a period of 24 hours or more. You can register the name and phone number of this contact person by email to reslife@umd.edu or by fax to 301-314-9750. For students under the age of 18 (who are not emancipated individuals), federal law requires the university to notify your custodial parent or guardian (within 24 hours) if it is determined that you have been missing from the campus and your whereabouts unknown for a period of 24 hours or more.

Residence Hall Security Precautions
• keep your room door locked, when you’re asleep, down the hall, in the shower, or visiting others in your building
• carry your keys with you at all times
• make sure doors close and latch behind you
• confront persons you don’t know; if you can’t confront, report information to staff or police
• report suspicious persons or activity to police and to your service desk/any staff member
• avoid isolated areas inside residence halls
• report damaged or malfunctioning doors, locks, etc.
to Residential Facilities [(301) 314-WORK (9675)]; South Campus Commons residents should report problems to the appropriate Commons Service Desk
• report “salespeople” or “solicitors” to your service desk; they don’t belong
• don’t let your guests wander the building
• don’t prop doors open
• don’t open doors for workers; staff who are conducting authorized business in your building must arrange for their own access

Bicycle Security Precautions
• do not store bicycles in your room without roommate’s(s’) approval and be sure that it does not block the entry in to and exit out of your room (South Campus Commons residents cannot store bicycles within their apartments)
• do not store bicycles on landings or stairwells
• secure your bicycle outdoors with a high-quality bicycle lock
• use outdoor bicycle racks; don’t lock bicycle to railings, lamp posts, ramps, hand-rails, etc.
• make sure your lock secures both wheel and frame
• if your bicycle has quick-release wheels and seat, secure front wheel with the back wheel and frame, and carry the seat with you
• keep a thorough description of your bicycle on hand, in case theft occurs
• register your bicycle with DOTS (http://www.transportation.umd.edu/bike_campus.html) to aid in recovery if theft occurs

Securing Your Personal Property
Keep your room door locked whenever you’re not there. Thefts happen most often when property is left unattended or unsecured. Since the University and Resident Life cannot be liable for personal accident, injury, or illness sustained by you or your visitors, nor for any theft, loss, or damage to your personal property, it’s smart for you to:
• lock up and hide your valuables
• remove valuables when you’re away during University breaks
• engrave personal property with your driver’s license number
• personalize property (paint, etc.) to help with identification
• keep your car locked and personal property in the car trunk
• make sure your property is covered by your own or your family’s homeowner’s or renter’s insurance
• keep receipts/records of purchase price, date, etc., for valuables

Furniture of any kind, including couches, tables, chairs, etc., is not allowed on the landing of apartments (except for lawn furniture).

Fire Prevention
• cook only in designated kitchen spaces
• use of microwaves is prohibited except as listed below:
  Oakland Hall and Prince Frederick Hall: Only one microwave, not more than 1,000 watts, is permitted per bedroom. A dedicated electrical outlet is located above the built-in counter in each bedroom where the microwave is to be placed.
  Leonardtown Community, South Hill Community except Cecil Hall, and St. Mary’s Hall: Only one microwave, not more than 1,000 watts, should be used at a time and should be used only in the suite’s common area or the apartment’s kitchen. Residents must avoid operating a microwave at the same time as a hair dryer or other personal, high-wattage electrical appliance in their suite or apartment in order to minimize a potential overload and loss of power.
  All Other Residence Halls: Microwaves are not permitted in student bedrooms. Traditional residence halls have areas designated in the hallway, lounge, or hall kitchen where a microwave may be available.
• do not leave your stove, oven or microwave unattended when in use
• use only power strips that have either 14- or 12-gauge wire, built-in surge protectors and circuit breakers, and which is listed by an approved testing laboratory such as Underwriters’ Laboratories (UL)
• limit the number of appliances that are plugged in or in use at one time
• do not cook in your room
• do not have open heating elements in your room
• do not use a frayed or worn extension cord
• do not use or possess fireworks, lighted candles, flammable fuels, space heaters, or firearms
• do not bring torchiere halogen lamps or halogen bulbs to your room
• do not smoke or allow others to smoke in your room or anywhere else inside the residence halls
• do not cover over, or tamper with, your room’s smoke detector
• never drape clothes or any paper, wood, cloth, or plastic material over a lamp, smoke detector, sprinkler head, or pipes
• only use grills for outdoor cooking which do not require lighter fluid or propane gas in approved areas
• when in use, hot or cooling grills must be at least 15 feet away from any building, may not be used on garden apartment balconies in Leonardtown and must not be left unattended until completely extinguished

Fire Alarm
You must leave the building immediately when a fire alarm is sounding. If safe to do so, close your window, room/suite/apartment doors, and safely exit the building at once.

Fire Watch
Fire Watch goes into effect if a building’s fire system is inactivated. Staff will continuously patrol the buildings affected, and in the event of a fire, will sound four air horn blasts on each wing of each floor.

If there is a fire:
• Sound the alarm
• Leave the building
• Call 911 or University police at (301) 405-3333 to report the emergency

Automatic Sprinklers
All residence halls are equipped with automatic sprinklers. When water flows through the sprinkler heads, the building alarm system will automatically sound. It is important that you do not tamper with the sprinkler heads or the system. Students tampering with the system, even accidentally, are liable for damage to University and private property and subject to administrative action.

Bomb Threats
All bomb threats reported to the University are taken seriously.

If a bomb threat is received:
• Call 911 or University police at 301-405-3333 to report the emergency
• Call your service desk

University police will respond to your location and assess the bomb threat. Once the police have assessed the situation, then the police will initiate appropriate action. Only the University of Maryland police will decide if an evacuation needs to occur, when it will occur, and how the evacuation will be announced and residents notified to evacuate. The notification to evacuate may be accomplished by the police activating the building fire alarm system, or they may decide to choose an alternate method of evacuation notification (air horns, phone, door-to-door) based on the circumstances and after assessing the situation of the particular bomb threat incident.
FIRE SAFETY REMINDERS

If you hear your building’s fire alarm:
• Immediately exit the building.
• Always assume an emergency; never assume a false alarm.
• Use stairs, not elevators.
• Do not open door if knob is warm to the touch; stay in room and call 911 or University police at (301) 405-3333 or #3333 from a mobile phone.
• Crawl on floor (where air is fresher) if you encounter smoke.

If you smell smoke or see smoke or fire:
• Pull the nearest building alarm.
• Close your room door.
• Safely exit the building.
• Call 911 or University police at (301) 405-3333 or #3333 from a mobile phone.
• Never attempt to fight or put out a fire.
• Tell staff or fire authorities exact location of fire or smoke.

If you get trapped by fire or smoke:
• Call 911 or University police at (301) 405-3333 or #3333 from a mobile phone, and report that you are trapped.
• Keep the doors closed.
• Hang an object out the window to notify rescuers of your location.
• Do not jump; the Fire Department will rescue you.

What you should do today:
• Read emergency/evacuation procedures posted in your room.
• Know locations of exit stairwells and doors.
• Plan more than one exit route.

SAFETY AND SECURITY RESOURCES

Medical Emergency 911 or (301) 405-3333 or #3333
Fire Emergency 911 or (301) 405-3333 or #3333
Police Emergency 911 or (301) 405-3333 or #3333
Police Investigations Unit (301) 405-5770
Police Non-Emergency (301) 405-3555
N.I.T.E. Ride Service (301) 314-NITE (6483)
Crime Reporting (301) 405-3555
Escorts, Security (301) 405-3555
Health Center (301) 314-8184
Lost Keys Your Service Desk
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**SAFETY SERVICES**

- NITE Ride Service in operation from 5:30pm to 7:30am
- Shuttle-UM Service 5:30pm to 3:00am
- Police Security Escorts
- University Police patrol buildings and campus 24 hours
- Blue Light PERT phones directly linked to University Police
- Triple Barrier Lock System in the residence halls
- Call boxes on residence halls

**EARLY WARNING SYSTEM**

The campus Early Warning System is designed to provide instant notification to students, faculty, and staff of imminent dangerous conditions.

In an emergency, sirens around campus will sound continuously for at least three minutes.

*If you ever hear the Early Warning siren:*

- If in your residence hall or apartment, stay inside/in your room, and seek information from the sources below.
- If outdoors, seek shelter inside the closest building.

*Instructions for responding to an emergency should be learned by checking:*

- WMUC 88.1 FM
- Comcast Cable Channel 76 (Terp TV)
- (301) 405-SNOW (7669) (recorded message)

When danger has passed, a single 30-second siren blast will sound.

**UMD ALERTS**

Another second means of notification is available to those who subscribe at www.alert.umd.edu to an alert system that would result, in an emergency, in text messages being sent to your email, mobile phone, pager, or other text-enabled device.