

NAU Timely Warning / Crime Alert (CA# 2022-03)

SEXUAL ASSAULT

On 04-08-22 it was reported to NAUPD that a sexual assault had occurred in a residence hall on campus earlier that morning. According to the victim, they met the suspect unknown to them at a bar downtown the evening prior. The suspect offered to give the victim a ride back to their dorm room which the victim accepted. Once back at the residence hall, the victim allowed the suspect into their room. While in the dorm room, some consensual sexual activity took place. However, the victim quickly realized they did not want the activity to progress and told the suspect to “stop” on several occasions. Each time the suspect would pause but then continued the unwanted advances and sexually assaulted the victim. The suspect was said to have been traveling through town and was described as a white male, mid-30’s, unkempt black hair, black patchy beard, with tattoos on his chest and back and smelled like cigarette smoke. The suspect was wearing a white or gray Kid Rock hat, black leather jacket, bluejeans and cowboy boots. It is believed the suspect’s name is “Nick”. The suspect’s vehicle was described as red Jeep believed to have a New Mexico license plate. There was also a medium sized black dog in the vehicle.

Myths & Facts About Sexual Assault

MYTH: *Sexual assault usually occurs between strangers.*

FACT: By some estimates, over 70% of sexual assault victims know their attackers. The suspect may be a relative, classmate, friend, co-worker, date or other acquaintance. In college, acquaintance or non-stranger sexual assault accounts for nearly 90% of all completed or attempted sexual assaults on campus.

MYTH: *Anyone who gets drunk or takes drugs is partially responsible for being sexually assaulted.*

FACT: Being drunk does not mean a person is asking to be assaulted. Forcing sexual contact on another person without consent is against the law. Someone who is passed out, unconscious, or incapacitated because of drugs or alcohol is unable to give consent. Sex without consent is sexual assault. Sexual assault is never the victim's fault.

It is never a victim’s responsibility to prevent an assault, but the following tips can help when at a bar, a party, or just out with friends.

- If you plan to drink alcohol, be aware of your surroundings and the people you are with. If you feel sleepy or feel you may pass out, ask a trusted and sober friend to stay with you or for a ride home.
- If you meet someone new or develop an interest in someone, discuss boundaries and mutually permissible and unacceptable activity early and certainly before any consumption of alcohol or other substances.
- Avoid inviting strangers back to your residence. It is much easier for a suspect to commit sexual violence in private and revealing your residence can lead to lingering issues if the relationship does not proceed as planned.
- If either party is intoxicated, seems apprehensive or uncomfortable or verbalizes anything that can be construed as “No”, “I don’t want to” or “Stop”, discontinue the behaviour immediately.
- If you feel like you have been sexually abused or assaulted, call the police immediately.