

Off-Campus Living Safety Transcript

Taking safety precautions is an important part of living off-campus. If you have roommates, talk to them about safety, and commit to practicing good safety habits together. Common sense precautions can reduce your vulnerability to both personal and property crimes.

Walking

- Avoid walking alone at night.
- Vary your routines.
- Use well-lit traveled routes.
- Avoid shortcuts and dark, isolated areas.
- Walk purposefully, know where you are going, and project a confident image.
- If you feel threatened, cross the street, locate an emergency phone, or enter a store or place of business.
- Have your door keys ready; carry them in your pockets, not buried in a purse or backpack.
- When walking to your car, do not hit the unlock button until you are close.

At Home

- Lock your doors and windows, even when you are inside your home.
- Keep emergency numbers on your phone
- Do not leave messages on your door indicating that you are away and when you will return.
- Do not put your address on your key ring.
- Know your neighbors
- Do not leave keys in hiding places.
- Close blinds and curtains at night.

Leaving for Breaks

- During winter breaks, you are still responsible for keeping public sidewalks adjacent to your home free of snow and ice. Please make arrangements with friends or neighbors.
- Tell your neighbors you will be out of town and ask them to keep an eye out on your home.
- Store electronic equipment and small valuables in a safe place.
- Contact the post office and request them to hold your mail while you are away.
- Have a timer for lights so your house looks occupied, even while you are gone.
- Keep your heat on during winter months so pipes do not freeze and break.

Downtown after Dark

- Before you head out, tell someone where you are going and when you plan to be back.
- Make sure your phone is charged to call for a ride or find your friends if you get separated.
- There is safety in numbers, so stick with a group that will not ditch you.
- If you're partying, make sure you have a plan to get home safely once the party is over.
- Make sure you have a way to pay for a ride home if needed.

Fire Safety

- Make sure smoke detectors are working properly. Test them once a month and change the batteries in them once a semester.
- DO NOT remove batteries from smoke detectors except to change them.
- Know at least two ways out of every room.
- Make an escape plan in case of emergencies and practice it at least once.
- Purchase a collapsible escape ladder for upper floor windows and know how to use it.
- Do not overload outlets or power strips.
- Do not leave lit candles or incense unattended and make sure candles are not near anything flammable including drapes, posters, or fabrics.
- Be very careful with space heaters and keep flammable items, including furniture, at least three feet away from heaters, furnaces, water heaters, and fireplaces.
- Do not leave food unattended on the stove or in the microwave, and make sure all burners are turned off before leaving the house.
- Be sure cigarettes are fully extinguished. When smoking, use a sturdy, non-tipping ashtray.
- Never smoke in bed!
- Keep a fire extinguisher near the kitchen and know how to use it.
- Make sure the wattage in light bulbs matches the correct wattage for the fixtures.
- Do not run the dryer without a lint trap and clean the lint trap regularly.
- Keep your electrical wiring in good condition. Have wire replaced if it is frayed or cracked. If you are renting, it is your landlord's responsibility to keep the wiring up to date. Let them know immediately if there are any issues.