Campus Safety

For Students

Fall 2015

Dean of Students
Introduction

The Campus Safety module is one component of a set of educational materials designed to address issues of health and safety at Vanderbilt. Various populations of students may be asked or required to become familiar with the following:

- **Alcohol Edu** (incoming undergraduates)
- **Fire Safety** (incoming undergraduates)
- **Haven** (all incoming students; power-based personal violence prevention, bystander intervention, and relevant statutes and resources)
- **Protection of Minors** (incoming undergraduates and other students engaged in activities or operations that require interaction with non-student minors)

Elements of campus safety can also be found in all four of the other components. The topics below are provided to augment and complete the University’s efforts to encourage individual responsibility for personal safety.
Security Precautions

Personal Security

- Walk or jog in groups of three or more.
- Avoid isolated or dark areas.
- Travel with confidence and purpose: avoid dawdling, texting, and other distractions.
- Do not wear earphones while walking or jogging.
- Make yourself familiar with the locations of emergency phones.
- Do not use ATMs at night.
- Stay alert, and plan ahead.
Security Precautions

*Residential Security*

- Know your neighbors.
- Do not prop open exterior doors.
- If you come in through an electronic key-card or coded access door, do not allow strangers to enter with you. Persons entering a building or secured areas within a building should have their own access cards or codes.
- Always lock your door when you leave your room.
- Lock your door while you sleep or when you are up late at night.
- Get involved: If you see someone who seems suspicious or out of place, call campus police immediately at 615-421-1411.
Security Precautions

Protecting Personal Property

- To increase the likelihood of return if stolen, register your bicycle and laptop with the Vanderbilt University Police Department.
- Lock your bike to a bike rack with a U-bolt or thick cable; include locking the front wheel, especially if you have quick-release wheels.
- Mark and create a record of your belongings through Operation ID at the Vanderbilt University Police Department.
- Keep your car locked. Leave nothing in plain sight in the vehicle. Store items of value in the trunk.
- Keep coats, backpacks, and purses with you or locked away.
Security Services

*Emergency Phones & Calls*

- Emergency phones are located throughout the campus.
- Each phone has an emergency button that, when pressed, dials the VUPD communications center.
- An open line on any emergency phone will initiate a priority response from an officer, who will check on the caller, even if nothing is communicated to the dispatcher.
- Emergency phones may be used for actual or perceived emergencies, only.
- An emergency response can also be initiated by calling 911 from any campus phone.
- Cell phone users can call (615) 421-1911 to initiate an emergency response from campus police.
- Cell phone users should dial 911 for off-campus emergencies.
- Callers should be prepared to state the location and the nature of the emergency.
Security Services

Vandy Vans

• The Vanderbilt University Police Department administers the Vandy Vans shuttle bus service in partnership with Vanderbilt Student Government and the Dean of Students office.
• The shuttle schedule is from 5pm to 5am during the fall and spring semesters.
• Shuttles run three different routes.
• Students may check van locations and estimated times of arrival on computers or smart phones, and may set up text message alerts to be informed when a Van is approaching a particular stop.
Security Services

*Escorts*

- A walking escort to and from the designated Vandy Van stops may be requested by dialing (615) 421-8888.
- Following the request, a representative from VUPD will be dispatched to the caller’s location, or to a designated meeting point, to accompany the caller to his or her destination.
Severe Weather

Thunderstorms & Lightning

- Lightning kills more people on average each year than hurricanes and tornadoes combined.
- Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from a rain area.
- During thunderstorms no place outside is safe but you can minimize your risk by assessing the lightning threat and taking appropriate action.
- Count the number of seconds from when you see the lightning flash until you hear the thunder. If you count 30 seconds or less you are in immediate danger. Even if you can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder means lightning is likely within striking range.
Severe Weather

Thunderstorms & Lightning Continued

• If you are caught outdoors in a severe thunderstorm or when lightning threatens:
  1. Immediately seek shelter in the nearest building.
  a. DO NOT seek shelter under trees during thunderstorms.
  b. DO NOT seek shelter in unprotected open structures such as picnic pavilions, rain shelters, or bus stops.
  c. If a substantial building is not available, a metal-topped vehicle with the windows up is your next best choice.
  2. Avoid contact with metal fences, metal bleachers, or metallic structures.
  3. Avoid using wired/corded telephones or any electrical appliances.
  4. Avoid plumbing (as in bathtub or shower) during a thunderstorm.
  5. Wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving the safe location.
Severe Weather

Thunderstorms & Lightning Continued

• If you are caught outdoors and no shelter is available:

  1 Find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles, which is not subject to flooding.

  2 If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. **Do not** lie down.

  3 If you are swimming, get out of the water and seek shelter, immediately.
Severe Weather

*Thunderstorms & Lightning Continued*

- *Remember:* If you can hear thunder, you are subject to being struck by lightning.
- Once you have taken shelter indoors, monitor the weather using whatever medium is available.
- Even when a specific storm cell has passed, conditions may still be right for high winds, lightning, and other hazardous weather conditions.
Severe Weather

**Tornado**

- If you are caught outdoors and hear the Vanderbilt sirens or receive an AlertVU notice that a tornado may be approaching campus:
  1. Immediately seek shelter in the closest substantial building.
  2. Never try to outrun a tornado. If you cannot seek shelter in a building, lie in a ditch or low-lying area and cover your head and neck.
Severe Weather

*Tornado Continued*

- Once you are indoors:
  1. Alert building occupants of the impending weather.
  2. Move quickly to a safe area indoors such as an interior hallway or an interior room away from windows.
     a. Basements, which are often recommended for shelter in private residences, may not be practical in high-rise buildings or some other campus facilities.
     b. Stay away from windows, doors and exterior walls.
     c. Close all doors leading to exterior rooms.
  3. Once you are indoors, stay indoors until the threat has passed. To determine when the threat has passed, monitor weather using whatever medium is available. Even when a specific storm cell has passed, conditions may still be right for high winds, lightning, and other hazardous weather conditions.
Severe Weather

Tornado Continued

• If you are in a classroom or meeting area:
  1. Move to the nearest interior hallway or interior room away from windows.
  2. Monitor weather using whatever medium is available.
  3. Follow advisories from AlertVU messaging.
Severe Weather

Tornado Continued

• Following the event:

1  If someone is injured or there is damage caused by the weather, notify the Vanderbilt University Police Department, alerting its personnel to the nature of the injury and extent of the damage.

2  Exit a building that smells of natural gas or chemical fumes.

3  Stay away from damaged areas.

4  Do not enter damaged buildings.

5  If you must be outdoors, be alert to downed power lines falling tree limbs and other debris.

6  Use phones only to report emergencies so as not to overload the system, thereby preventing emergencies from being reported.

7  Monitor available media for reports and guidance.

8  Assist special needs persons.
Medical Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency:

1. **Do not attempt to move the individual** (unless instructed to do so by emergency personnel), or to transport the individual to medical services.
2. Call Vanderbilt Police at 615-421-1911.
3. Provide the following information
   a. Building name
   b. Floor and room number
   c. Caller’s name and phone number
   d. Nature of the injury and severity of the injury
   e. Location of the injured person
   f. Age of injured person, if known.
   g. Sex of injured person
   h. Current condition
   i. Any relevant medical history, if known
4. Remain with the person with the medical injury. **Do not move** the individual unless the person is in immediate danger of further injury.
5. If possible, send someone to meet the responding emergency personnel at the location designated by the dispatcher.
Medical Emergencies

Cardiac Arrest and Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

- If the medical emergency involves someone who has experienced cardiac arrest and has no pulse or respirations, an AED may be required.
- AEDs have the ability to detect an irregular heart rhythm and apply an electrical shock (or shocks) to an individual’s heart in attempt to reset it to a normal and effective rhythm.
- Using an AED
  1. Most anyone can apply and use an AED.
  2. Voice prompts guide the rescuer through the appropriate steps and AEDs are over 99% accurate in rhythm interpretation, so they won't shock a person unless he or she needs it.
- AEDs on the Vanderbilt Campus:
  1. All Vanderbilt University Police Department marked patrol vehicles are equipped with AEDs,
  2. AEDs are also located in many buildings across the campus.
Medical Emergencies

Hypothermia

• Hypothermia is a medical emergency that occurs when your body loses heat faster than it can produce heat, causing a dangerously low body temperature.

• When your body temperature drops, your heart, nervous system and other organs can't work normally. Left untreated, hypothermia can eventually lead to complete failure of your heart and respiratory system and to death.

• Hypothermia occurs in conditions of exposure to low temperatures and is often complicated by drinking.

• Drinking alcohol increases the risk of hypothermia in that it increases blood flow to the skin resulting in a feeling of warmth while actually increasing heat loss. **Drinking too much in cold conditions can be deadly.**

• During the cold conditions, especially:
  1. Wear appropriately warm clothing.
  2. Avoid drinking alcohol to a state of intoxication.
  3. Always travel with friends.
  4. Take care of your friends.
Active Shooter

For your residence hall, each of your classrooms, and other locations that you frequent (dining facilities, student centers, etc.)

• Be aware of your surroundings.
  1 Know room and floor layouts.
  2 Know where building exits are located.
  3 Know alternate routes to reach exits.
  4 Identify areas where you can shelter in place.

• Determine how the door(s) might be secured and barricaded.

• Identify furnishings or other items that might be used as shields, or, if it comes to it, projectiles or weapons.

• Get in the habit of making the above observations in environments new to you.

• Check and update your contact information for AlertVU to receive incident alerts via telephone, email or text messages at emergency.vanderbilt.edu/alertvu.
Active Shooter

There are three recommended responses to an “active shooter”:

• 1 RUN: If there is a way to escape the threat and you are reasonably sure that you can do so without being harmed, RUN. This is your first and best option.

• Be sure to:

  1. Have an escape route in mind.
  2. Evacuate whether or not others follow.
  3. Leave your belongings behind, but keep your cell phone in your pocket.
  4. Help others escape, especially those with special needs.
  5. Tell others you encounter not to enter the area where the active shooter may be.
  6. Keep your hands visible at all times.
  7. Follow the instructions of law enforcement officers.
  8. Do not attempt to move injured people.
  9. Call 911 when it is safe to do so and provide the following information:
     • Your name and location
     • Location of the incident (be as specific as possible)
     • Number of shooters (if known)
     • Approximate number of persons who may be in the shooter’s path or range.
Active Shooter

There are three recommended responses to an “active shooter”:

• **2 HIDE**: If evacuation is not possible, you are told “to secure in place,” or the active shooter is outdoors, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. Choose the best space that is available quickly.

• **Your hiding place should:**
  1. Be out of the view of the active shooter.
  2. Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction.
  3. Not trap you or restrict your options for movement.

• **To discourage an active shooter from entering your hiding place, you should:**
  1. Turn off lights.
  2. Secure doors and windows, if possible.
  3. Place heavy furniture or equipment in front of doors (especially if the door does not lock or opens into the hallway).
  4. Close blinds and move away from windows.
Active Shooter

There are three recommended responses to an “active shooter”:

• **2 HIDE (Continued):**

• To keep yourself safe while hiding you should:

  1. Remain quiet.
  2. Hide behind large items (i.e., cabinets, desks).
  3. Silence your cell phone and turn off vibrate mode.
  4. Turn off any sources of noise (radios, televisions, computers, etc.).
  5. Don’t respond to voice commands or move barricades until you are sure that commands are coming from police.
  6. If you can speak to a dispatcher without being overheard by assailants, dial 911, to alert police to the situation.
  7. If you cannot speak, mute the speaker and leave the line open so the dispatcher can listen.
  8. Do not approach emergency responders; let them come to you.
Active Shooter

There are three recommended responses to an “active shooter”:

• **2 HIDE (Continued):**
  
  • *If outside when a shooting occurs:*
    
    1  Drop to the ground immediately, face down and as flat as possible. If you are within 20 feet of a safe place or cover, duck and run for it.
    
    2  Move or crawl away from gunfire, trying to use any obstacle between you and the gunfire. Remember, obstacles may conceal you from sight, but may not be bulletproof.
    
    3  When you reach a relatively safe place, stay down, do not move. Do not peek or raise your head to try to see what is happening.
    
    4  Wait and listen for further instructions from law enforcement.
Active Shooter

There are three recommended responses to an “active shooter”:

- **FIGHT**: As a last resort if your life is in danger, if you cannot evacuate or hide effectively, or have been discovered, be ready to fight.
  - 1. Take steps to incapacitate the active shooter:
  - 2. Act as aggressively as possible against him or her.
  - 3. Throw any items available at the intruder(s) to distract them (books, backpacks, etc.)
  - 4. Use improvised weapons such as a fire extinguisher or chair.
  - 5. Yell.
  - 6. Commit to your actions.
Earthquake

Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently, and without warning. The majority of earthquake-related injuries result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.

If indoors:

- Stay away from windows.
- *Do not* stand in a doorway.
- *Do not* use elevators.
- *Do not* run for the exits or attempt to leave the building. Most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location or exit the building.
- Protect yourself from falling objects such as light fixtures, books, and shelves.
- *Drop* to the ground; take *cover* by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; *hold on* until the shaking stops. If no tables or desks are near, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- In laboratories, extinguish flames (if possible) before taking cover. Stay clear of areas with large quantities of hazardous materials.
Earthquake

*If outside:*

- Move away from structures, power lines or other possible hazards.
- Lie down or crouch low to the ground (legs will not be steady).
- Keep looking around to be aware of dangers, which may demand immediate movement.
Earthquake

When the shaking stops:

- Check for injuries to people in your vicinity. DO NOT attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger.
- Check the area for safety hazards such as building damage, fires, chemical spills, or gas leaks.
- Exit the building and go to the designated assembly area (if there is one).
- Stay at least 500 feet away from the affected building or other hazards.
- Stay out of streets, fire lanes, and walkways to keep them clear for emergency vehicles and crews.
- Report missing persons, injuries, damages and/or potentially hazardous conditions to emergency responders or building personnel.
- Once you have exited the building, do not re-enter the building until the building has been cleared for reentry by emergency personnel.
- Use telephone for urgent matters, only.
Resources

• Vanderbilt University Police 615-322-2745
• Vanderbilt Emergency Preparedness 615-566-1119
• Dean of Students Office 615-322-6400
• Housing & Residential Education 615-322-2591
• Project Safe Center 615-875-0680
  24-Hour Support Line 615-322-7233
• Wellness Programs & Alcohol Education 615-343-4740
• AlertVU: Enroll—or update information—to receive emergency notifications.