Fall Semester 2013

As the new academic year begins, staff, faculty and thousands of students are arriving on our colleges and Continuing Education campuses, and the San Diego Community College District Police Department wants to make sure they are safe.

The San Diego Community College District Police Department is offering 10 safety tips as we begin classes for the fall semester.

College and Continuing Education campuses are generally safe places, but all community members need to understand that campus safety is a shared responsibility. If you see or hear something out of the ordinary, be sure to report it right away.

Only together can we make our campuses safer. It is a collaborative effort, and our campus communities need to be aware of what goes on around us to take actions that eliminate opportunities for crime.

The following tips are some of the most effective ways staff, faculty and students can proactively safeguard themselves, as well as their personal belongings, while on campus.

1. **Make the call.** Program the San Diego Community College District Police Department’s phone number (619-388-6405) into your cell phone so you have it at your fingertips in the event of an emergency on campus. If you see a crime in progress or even something suspicious, do not hesitate, make the call.

2. **Empower yourself.** Enroll in a self-defense course. The San Diego Community College District Police Department offers Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.). R.A.D. is a comprehensive course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. It is dedicated to teaching women defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault using easy, effective and proven self-defense / martial arts tactics.

3. **Do not walk alone.** Take advantage of the San Diego Community College District Police Department’s escort service or walk with friends or classmates. When calling for an escort, you should provide the dispatcher with the following information:
   - Your current location and your desired destination
   - Your name
   - A callback number in the event you must be notified of a delay for your escort.

The dispatcher will attempt to have an officer escort you as soon as possible. Your escort may be on foot or in a car, depending on availability.
4. **Protect your property.** Never leave valuables unattended. Tossing a backpack on a table while getting lunch or leaving it on a bench may lead to theft of the backpack or something inside it. Never leave items like your backpack, laptop or cell phone unattended – even if it is just for a minute. Make a habit to take these valuables with you.

5. **Report solicitors.** Magazine subscriptions, donation requests, and “earn money now” schemes are some of the common methods criminals use to take your money. Avoid solicitors’ scams by politely saying no and immediately notifying the San Diego Community College District Police Department (619-388-6405). Never provide a solicitor with your personal information.

6. **On the bus / trolley.** Stay awake and keep your valuables close to you. Sit near the door or the driver. If someone is harassing you, do not hesitate, ask the driver let you to off at a populated bus stop or a well-lit area.

7. **Grab it. Close it. Lock it.** Campus parking lots and structures are common target for thieves. Never leave valuables in your car or items in plain view. Take items like GPS devices, removable stereo faceplates, and electronics with you. Make sure your windows are up and the doors are locked. Apply a security device and set the alarm.

8. **Keep personal information private.** Avoid becoming a victim of identity theft by carrying only the necessary items in your wallet or purse. Do not give personal information to solicitors.

9. **Protect your ride.** Bicycle theft is an on-going problem. If you haven't already, you should record the make, model and serial number of your bicycle and store this information in a safe place. Use a case-hardened "U" lock; cable locks are easily cut. Position your bike frame and wheels so that you fill or take up as much open space within the U-portion of the lock as possible. The tighter the lock up, the harder it is for thieves to use tools to attack your lock. For maximum protection, use both a cable-and-lock as well as a U-type lock. Thieves will seldom carry the tools necessary to break both types of locks.

10. **Mark your property.** Etch your driver’s license number on any valuables that might be stolen. Photograph valuables that cannot be etched. Keep a detailed, up-to-date record of your valuables. Include type, model, serial number, proof of purchase and fair market value.

The San Diego Community College District Police Department’s mission is to maintain peace and order and a safe learning environment throughout our District. There are Emergency Call-Boxes in many classrooms, elevators and parking lots that provide a direct link to the San Diego Community College District Police Department.

If you have information about crimes which have occurred, or may occur on or near campus, you may report it by calling **College Police** at (619) 388-6405, the **San Diego Police** at (619) 531-2000 or **Crime Stoppers** at (888) 580-TIPS(8477). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Ed Headtke
Acting Chief of Police
San Diego Community College District: