

# **Campus Safety and Security Information**

## **NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A college campus is an important part of the local community that it serves. As in any neighborhood, it is important that the students, faculty, and staff realize that they should take every possible precaution to prevent assault and crime against themselves or others.

The administration of NWF State College recognizes that the college's campuses are part of the community and experience the risks and threats of society as a whole. NWF State College has established programs and systems involving personnel, procedural methods, and physical means to provide as reasonably safe and secure an environment on campus as possible.

The NWF State College Student Affairs and Physical Plant departments provide information and assistance on self-protection to students and faculty. However, each person must also take action to protect himself or herself.

Lack of vulnerability is the key. A criminal, and especially the sexual assaulter, looks for and exploits perceived weakness. The less vulnerable the person, home, or vehicle appear, the less chance of assault, loss, theft, or robbery. The information provided is designed to inform, advise, and alert campus occupants about NWF State College policies and procedures on crime awareness and reporting. Also, crime methodology and crime prevention techniques are provided to assist in self-protection.

**See also: Board Policy GP #13.00 and Board Policy SA #3.00.**

### **GENERAL CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY POLICIES**

There are two important elements in creating and maintaining protective programs and systems. First is an understanding of campus crime and safety hazards by students and employees. Next are methods of communication and action to reduce or eliminate security and safety threats and hazards.

Therefore, it is the policy of NWF State College that all students and employees of NWF State College campuses are to report criminal acts and safety hazards or occurrences known to them. The proper reporting procedure is for everyone in the event of any concern is to contact the NWF State College Physical Plant Department, (850) 729-5380.

*Niceville Campus:* **NWF State College ALERT** is available 24 hours a day by dialing extension 5335, 729-5335 direct dial access, or 582-9119 cellular phone.

*NWF State College/UWF FWB Campus:* Security is maintained by a local Sheriff's deputy and then passed on to Security and/or FWB Physical Plant.

*Sikes Education Center:* A Security Guard is on duty from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. during scheduled class dates. Contact the office staff or the guard on duty for routine escort or security matters.

*Chautauqua Center:* A Maintenance/Security person is on duty from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. during scheduled class dates. Contact the office staff or the Maintenance/Security person for routine escort or security matters.

Naturally, in the event of an immediate threat, danger, injury, or criminal occurrence, the occupant is advised to go to the nearest phone and call 911 for the local police/fire/emergency medical service in his or her jurisdiction.

In all instances of criminal occurrence, loss of property, assault, threat, injury, or attempted crime, the Physical Plant Department must be contacted as soon as possible in order to facilitate proper reporting and resource utilization and to record the occurrence for further study and preventive action.

### **CAMPUS PERSONAL SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The NWF State College Physical Plant Department provides security information, assistance, and services to aid campus occupants in the protection process. No person or location is 100 percent safe. The NWF State College Physical Plant Department utilizes a patrolling security guard/deputy to observe and detect crimes and threats on the Niceville and Fort Walton Beach campuses. Sheriff Department deputies are employed to provide security at the Fort Walton Beach campus. The Physical Plant Department's security function is primarily informational and advisory, rather than regulatory. The primary protective means used are restricting campus access and use to only those authorized students, staff, employees, or their guests for reasonable and safe purposes. The inspection and maintenance of locks, doors, windows, lights, and alarms are coordinated by the Physical Plant Department.

The actions taken by a person to increase security in his or her residence, vehicle, or personal activity can prevent a crime by causing the perpetrator to think twice and be deterred. Simple actions include:

### **GENERAL SECURITY**

- Locking vehicle doors at all times
- Not "propping" doors open
- Exercising, traveling, or jogging with a friend or partner
- Being aware of unusual or suspicious persons or conditions
- Staying in well-lighted areas of the campus
- Calling NWF State College Physical Plant to report crime suspicious activity **(850) 729-5380/ NWF State College ALERT 729-5335 or 582-9119**
- Calling the local police **(911)**, then calling **NWF State College ALERT (729-5335)**, if danger is suspected or if you are threatened (on campus **9+ 911**)

Good locks on windows and doors make it difficult for assailants and burglars to get in. Most houses have deadbolt locks on doors leading to the outside. Make sure you always use the security measures available. For more information on locks and security measures, contact the Physical Plant at 729-5380.

To deter theft and “fencing” of stolen goods, engrave or mark all valuable personal property with your name and phone number and/or driver’s license number.

## **ON CAMPUS**

The Physical Plant Department operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for the protection of students, staff, faculty and visitors. A deputy/guard patrols the campus by marked vehicle and by foot patrol.

The NWF State College ALERT program announces to criminals that we at NWF State College are aware of possible crime and are alert enough to report it. A criminal does not want attention. **Attention leads to prevention.** The NWF State College ALERT announcements on bulletin boards and the information in NWF State College ALERT indicates the emergency telephone numbers – 729-5335/ext. 5335 or 582-9119. The number should be called whenever necessary for the safety and security of you, your property, or campus property.

The following preventive measures will help minimize your chances of being attacked.

- If you are going out, tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Always lock your doors and don’t lend the key. Keys can be duplicated.
- Don’t walk alone at night. Take a friend with you.
- Stay in well-lighted areas.
- **Photocopy all important papers that you carry in your purse or wallet, including your driver’s license. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. This information will be invaluable if you lose your license or cards.**
- Don’t offer a ride to any individual you don’t know, even if the person claims to be a student.
- Report to Physical Plant any non-working corridor, hallway, or exterior lights on campus.

## **ELEVATORS**

-Trust your intuition. If you feel uncomfortable, you do not have to use the elevator. Call Security.

-If you are in an elevator and someone suspicious enters, stand near the controls. If necessary, you can press all the buttons or use the emergency alarm.

## **ON THE STREET**

-Be alert. Look around you. Be aware of others on the street. Make it difficult for anyone to take you by surprise. Women should carry a whistle on a key chain. Walk with keys in hand.

-Walk or bike with others if you have a choice. Try not to go alone.

-Stay on populated, well-lighted streets when you can.

-If possible, avoid dark or concealed areas. Walk in the middle of the street if it appears safer.

-If you think someone is following you, turn around and check so that you are not caught off guard. Cross the street or change directions.

-Walk or run toward people, traffic, or lights. Consider confronting the aggressor and saying, in a loud, firm voice, “Don’t follow me.” Try to find an occupied building and perhaps throw something through the window, if necessary.

-If a car follows you or stops near you for directions, do not approach the car. Change direction if you feel threatened and walk or run toward stores, a lighted house, or other people.

## **IN YOUR CAR**

-Park in well-lighted areas at night. Check the street before leaving the car. Park in full view of the front of stores and houses. Walk to your car with keys ready.

-If you have a flat tire, seek help by phone or at a nearby business. Beware of someone instantly appearing to offer help – attackers often disable cars to make their owners vulnerable.

-Check the back seat before entering; someone could be hiding there.

-Keep the car doors locked at **all** times, even when driving in daylight, so no one can jump in at a red light.

-Keep enough gas in your tank for any emergency which may arise.

-If you are followed by another car, drive to a police station or business that has lights on and people in it. You may not want to go directly home with someone following you. “Driveway” robberies are becoming more common.

-If your car breaks down, lift the hood, put on the flashers, and wait inside with the doors locked until help arrives. Ask people who stop to call the police or AAA for you. Don’t go with anyone.

-Don’t stop for stranded motorists. You are of greater help to them by calling the police or sheriff.

## **JOGGING**

-Try to jog with a partner. Try to avoid running alone, even in daylight. You could become injured from a fall and might need help.

-Be aware of people around you.

-Stay on well-lighted paths in open areas. Vary your route. Be suspicious of people you pass many times.

-Stay away from parked cars, especially those occupied by suspicious persons.

## **INDIVIDUAL REACTIONS REGARDING SEXUAL ASSAULT**

No one knows how a victim will react if confronted with the threat of sexual assault. However, you will be able to handle such a situation better if you have complete awareness and understanding, not only of all the dangers inherent in a potential sexual assault situation, but also of the alternative preventive measures that you can take.

Know yourself. It is important to think about who you are and how you might respond to different situations before they occur. All attackers have the potential to be violent. This is a most important consideration when deciding what to do in a given situation.

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION**

This information has been prepared to increase awareness about sexual assault and to assist people in coping with sexual assault if it does happen. We want to help you:

1. Identify and assess situations in which you could be assaulted.
2. Protect yourself if you should be assaulted.
3. Recover after an assault.
4. Better aid a friend or relative in coping with the after-effects of an assault.

We hope that by reading this information you will begin to think about sexual assault as a problem that affects both men and women and that requires people to take responsibility for each other. It is essential that women and men take action that will deal with the causes of sexual assault and not merely treat its symptoms.

Men as well as women are sexually assaulted.

## **THE FRIENDLY STRANGER AND "DATE RAPE"**

Many attacks start with casual conversation – the assailant is "sizing the woman up." If she is polite and friendly (as most people have been taught to be), he will probably attempt to intimidate her. Although most women feel uncomfortable about such an encounter before it escalates, they don't want to appear to be unfriendly or suspicious. If your instinctive response to a man, whether a stranger or friend, is uneasiness, try to get out of the situation as quickly as possible, even if it means being rude or making a scene.

Date rape occurs more frequently than reports seem to indicate. The key to prevention lies in:

- AWARENESS
- TRUSTING YOUR INTUITION
- ASSERTIVE BEHAVIOR

**WHO IS THE VICTIM? Every person is a potential victim of sexual assault.**

## **WHERE CAN THE SEXUAL ASSAULT OCCUR?**

Sexual assault can happen virtually anywhere, but the largest single grouping of reported incidents is either in the home of the victim or the home of the offender. It is important to be aware of all potentially hazardous areas:

remote parking lots	stairwells	school playgrounds
public parks	beaches at night	shopping centers
jogging courses	hitchhiking	laundromats
on the street	deserted buildings	

Sexual assaults often occur in conjunction with other crimes such as burglary, so the more effective preventive measures and common-sense precautions you take, the less your chances are of becoming a victim. But regardless of how many or how few precautions you take, you are not provoking the attack. A locked door gives you time to call the police (911).

## **SURVIVAL IS THE GOAL**

Prevention measures can reduce the risk of attack, but they are not 100 percent effective. What can you do if you are attacked? There is no ready answer because each situation is different. Recent studies show that an immediate aggressive response will be twice as likely to increase the possibility of escape but can aggravate the situation. Submitting does not guarantee that violence will not occur, however.

Evaluate the situation for possible ways of escape. If one method doesn't work, try another. Often victims have tried several different escape ideas before one worked.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE LOCAL POLICE ( What to do if you are assaulted at NWF State College)**

The college encourages victims to report all crimes to campus security and to the police.

If a sexual assault happens on campus, report it to the police (911) or campus security at 729-5335 . . . or call : the Dean of Students at 729-6671. . . Human Resources at 729-5365.. President's Office at 729-5360 . . . **but report it** to some member of the college staff. A report to any college employee will set off a chain of events designed to protect the safety and well-being of the person who has been assaulted, and the college community at-large.

If the victim does not want to file an official police report of the incident, he or she can still provide the police information about the assailant. This information may help the police arrest the assailant and prevent another assault. Information may be provided directly or through a friend or advocate.

All reports of sexual assault are treated as confidential. The College will work with authorized agencies such as hospitals, public law enforcement, and campus security to obtain needed assistance for the victims and to take steps for resolution. Disclosure is confidential and will not be released. If the victim is a minor, the

parents or guardian will be informed. The College will ensure case follow-up and assist with person concerns, victim advocacy and counseling referral services.

Help is available from the State Attorney's Office for victims with questions or doubts about prosecution.

### CAMPUS SECURITY GATES

- Niceville Campus main entry gates and east gates open at 5:30 a.m. and close at 11:00 p.m.
- Niceville Campus west gates remain open 24 hours a day due to Emergency Operations Center located on the Niceville Campus.
- Fort Walton Beach Campus gates are open at 5:30 a.m. and close at 11:00 p.m.
- When class is not in session, they are closed at 9:00 p.m. Athletic events at the gym or sports complex and Arts Center productions may create exceptions to the close time.

### NWF STATE COLLEGE PUBLIC SAFETY

Physical Plant Department ..... 729-5380/ext. 5380

Niceville Campus Security  
Emergency or after hours ..... 729-5335/ext.5335  
(NWF State College ALERT) or 582-9119

FWB Campus Security  
Emergency or after hours ..... 582-9112

### LOCAL POLICE

Niceville Police ..... 911 or 729-4030

Crestview Police ..... 911 or 682-2055

DeFuniak Springs Police ..... 911 or 892-8511

Okaloosa Sheriff's Office ..... 911 or 651-7400

Walton Sheriff's Office ..... 911 or 892-8111

Note: Press "9" then 911 when using a campus phone

### HOSPITALS

Twin Cities Hospital, Niceville ..... (850) 729-4131

Walton County Hospital, DeFuniak Springs ..... (850) 892-5874

North Okaloosa Medical Center, Crestview ..... (850) 689-8100

Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, Ft. Walton Beach ..... (850) 862-1111

Sacred Heart Emerald Coast, Destin. .... (850) 278-3000

### GENERAL INFORMATION

State Attorney's Office (Tallahassee)..... (850) 487-1963

**We hope that by offering this safety information we will increase your personal awareness and improve our campus environment.**

[www.nwfsc.edu](http://www.nwfsc.edu)

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*An Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Institution and A Drug Free Work Place*