

# Crime Prevention

Tips for Preventing Crime on Campus

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## **Crime Prevention Tips for Personal safety and property:**

### **Personal Safety**

- **Watch your surroundings** and be alert for suspicious persons, especially around banks, stores, street, and your car or home.
  - Keep your space - Intimate space - 0 to 1.5 feet Personal space - 1.5 to 4 feet Social space - 4 to 12 feet Public space - 12 feet or more
- **Use caution in parking lots**, and don't walk in poorly lighted areas, or dark doorways, or near shrubbery.
- When leaving late, **ask the security guard** or a co-worker to walk you to your car. Have the 24/7 PNWU Security Cell **509-823-3346** in your contacts.
- **Try NOT to go out alone at night.** Avoid unfamiliar areas, if possible.
- **Don't allow alcohol or drugs** to impair your judgment. If you haven't already set a few social standards, do so and stick to them. Don't allow an overly aggressive pursuer to change your mind. **NO** is a complete sentence!

### **Protection of Property**

- **Never Leave Items of Value Unattended.**( Wallets, cell phones, backpacks, calculators, and laptop computers left alone in a public area make up a significant amount of campus theft. Always secure belongings or take them with you.)
- **Always Lock Your Door (Even when you are inside).**
- **Never Prop Open Exterior Building Doors.** Propping open building doors creates a perfect opportunity for criminals to enter offices, computer labs, study rooms, etc., undetected. Often buildings are occupied, even though the building is closed to the public and locked. Any passerby can enter through the propped door, sometimes creating a risk to the building occupants.
- **Immediately Report Anyone Trying Door Handles, or wandering halls.** A significant amount of theft occurs when criminals enter unlocked doors. The criminal may walk the halls of buildings, trying door handles, or enter an occupied room, then claim to have the wrong room. Both of these are not normal activity. Call security (509-823-3346) right away if you witness someone trying door handles or a stranger entering your room uninvited. Protect yourself and others around you by reporting this activity.
- **Immediately Report any Other Suspicious Activity.** Suspicious activity often indicates that the person is about to commit a crime. Reporting activity such as persons trying door handles, looking into car windows, loitering around dark areas, continuously walking up and down halls, stopping you to ask uncomfortable personal questions, loitering or kneeling in bike racks, trying to conceal bolt cutters, screwdrivers, slim jims, etc, or attempting to follow you into a locked access controlled door. Also report any activity that seems out of place or makes you feel uncomfortable.

## **Crime Prevention Tips for pedestrians on campus:**

- **Use sidewalks and off-road paths...**separate yourself from the traffic by sidewalks or planting strips between the street and you.
- **Walk facing traffic...**so you can see and react to any vehicle. DO NOT walk with your back to overtaking traffic.
- **Use Extra Caution crossing streets...**drivers are looking for other cars, not pedestrians. Always assume that the cars that might be turning do not see you.
- **Carry a flashlight** and/or wear reflective clothing
- **Safety in numbers...**walk where other walkers and joggers travel.
- **Watch for tripping hazards** on uneven sidewalks...try to look ahead at least 15 feet in front of you.

## **Crime Prevention Tips for your move:**

- **Look after your possessions while moving.** Move your possessions directly from the vehicle into your home, not leaving them on the walkway or front lawn.
- **Have someone in attendance** of the vehicle and property that hasn't made it into the residence.
- **Try to find a neighbor right away** that you can make friends with. They will be the only one in the complex that knows who belongs and doesn't.
- **Obtain 'Renters' Insurance** for your contents. (It's very reasonable and well worth the peace of mind)
- **Make sure that you have a locking mailbox.** (Consider renting a private mailbox to receive your mail and packages i.e. 'Mail or More, Pack & Post')
- **Always secure your bicycles** inside or with a "U" type lock.
- **Try to park your vehicle in a well-lit area** away from shrubs and trees that might block light and vision.
- Inquire to see if your apartment complex or neighborhood is involved with a **neighborhood watch program.**

You will be residing in Yakima County. East of the Yakima River is Yakima Sheriff's Office jurisdiction (509-574-2500). West of the Yakima River is Yakima Police Departments jurisdiction (509-575-6200). In any emergency call 911 and they will dispatch the appropriate department.

## **Prevention Tips with Coyote Encounters:**

Prevention is the best tool for minimizing conflicts with coyotes and other wildlife. **To prevent conflicts with coyotes, use the following management strategies:**

- **Never feed coyotes.** Coyotes that are fed by people often lose their fear of humans and develop a territorial attitude that may lead to aggressive behavior.
- **Don't leave small children unattended** where coyotes are frequently seen or heard. If there are coyote sightings near your residence, prepare your children for a possible encounter. Don't run, but be as big, mean, and loud as possible.
- **Don't give coyotes access to garbage.** Keep garbage can lids on tight and secure them with clamps or other mechanisms.
- **Feed dogs and cats indoors.** If you must your dogs and pets outside, do so in the morning or midday, and pick up food, water bowls, and leftovers well before dark.
- **Keep dogs and cats indoors,** especially from dusk to dawn. If left outside at night in an unprotected area, cats and small to mid-size dogs may be killed by coyotes. Pets can be easy prey for coyotes. Being raised by humans leaves them unsuspecting once they leave the safety of home. If you suspect losing a dog or cat to a coyote, notify your neighbors. Once a coyote finds easy prey it will continually hunt in the area.
- **Public Health Concerns.** Coyote diseases or parasites are rarely a risk to humans, but could be a risk to domestic dogs in Washington. Anyone handling a coyote should wear rubber gloves, and wash their hands well when finished.
- **For additional information** go to "Living with Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest" <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/>

## **Prevention Tips for Driving near Campus:**

Next Monday starts the first day of school for grade schools in our immediate area. With that comes increased risk factors while driving to and from school. Both students and anxious parents will be on the sidewalks and roadways.

- **Leave early, slow down, and give yourself extra stopping distance.**
- Remember Washington State Traffic fines in school zones are Double in **Fines\$\$\$**

- Last, but not least there will be Washington State Patrol and Yakima County Sheriff's Officers **working radar** in our University neighborhoods. Terrace Heights Road, University Parkway, and Keys Road all will have restricted speed zones during morning and after school hours. It is a common practice for strict enforcement to be implemented during this first couple of weeks during back to school.
- The following **driving safety tips** are for your review:  
<http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/back-to-school-safety-tips-for-drivers.aspx>

### **Prevention Tips for Mail Theft:**

Mail theft or tampering is a serious problem, as it often leads to identity theft and check forgeries. If you are a victim of this crime, you need to report this to the agency of your jurisdiction immediately.

- Install a **locking mail box** to receive your mail and parcels. If you are renting, discuss this with your landlord. They run about \$75.00 and do require some modification to your existing mailbox post.
- Do not mail **outgoing payments** with checks from your open mail box container. Rather, take them to shipping and receiving at PNWU where there is an outgoing mail box or take directly to your nearest US Mail Box container.
- Another option is to obtain a **PO Box** with the US Postal Service. There is a downtown location and 3rd Avenue and Washington.
- Last, there are private business such as Mail N More and Pack N Post, which have something similar to a PO Box that **you can rent**. In addition, they can receive packages from UPS, FEDEX, and US Post Office for you and keep them secure until you can pick them up.
- I furnished the **following agencies** and links for your convenience:
  - **Yakima County Sheriff**  
**509-574-2500**  
 1822 South 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
 Yakima, WA 98901  
<http://www.yakimacounty.us/sheriff/>
  - **Yakima Police Department**  
**509-575-6200**  
 200 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
 Yakima, WA 98901  
<http://www.ci.yakima.wa.us/services/police/>
  - Report mail theft on line:  
<https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/contactUs/filecomplaint.aspx>
  - Mail N More  
<http://www.mailnmore3.com/>
  - Pack N Post  
<http://www.yellowpages.com/yakima-wa/mip/pack-n-post-491733326>