



C.O.P.P.S. Newsletter

Community Outreach from Police & Parking Services



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(707) 664 - 2143

Tyson Hill, Editor



The Chief's Corner

Welcome back! We are pleased to present the first COPPS Newsletter. This news letter will be published twice during the regular semesters and will focus on current topics in the area of law enforcement/safety information, parking, emergency preparedness and traffic safety. We hope that this newsletter will be of benefit to you. Please feel free to contact us should you have questions or comments concerning this publication.

Sexual assault is a term that encompasses the various forms of assaults that are sexual in nature. As you are aware last fall we received three reports of sexual assaults on campus. Each case was taken seriously, and investigators worked very hard to protect the victim, follow-up on these cases, and identify suspects. Although two of the cases involved suspects who were known to the victim, we want to remind you of the need to stay aware of your surroundings and practice good crime prevention strategies.

Sonoma State University is an open-architecture campus. Albeit a safe place to learn, we want to recruit you to serve as our eyes and ears. Police officers cannot be everywhere all the time, but collectively we can be in most places, most of time. So remember to call us at 9-1-1 or (707) 664-2143 (from your mobile phone) should you observe suspicious activity.

We thank you for your continued support of our safety program, and we are proud to serve as your Police and Parking Services department. Have a safe 2006!

Truly yours,

Nate Johnson, Ed.D.
Chief of Police / Sr. Director
Police and Parking Services

Crime Prevention and Safety Tips of the Month

~ **Theft** is a very common crime on college campuses due to opportunity. Here are some tips to help prevent you from becoming a victim:

- Make sure to lock doors and windows in residence halls and your vehicles.
- In your vehicle, never leave any valuables in clear sight.
- Be aware of your surroundings in parking lots, including people, landscaping and potential hazards and dangers.
- Park under or near street lights at night, and report any street lights that are out to Police and Parking Services.
- At night, walk with others if possible. Walk in well lighted areas and paths. Don't take short cuts! If alone, police are always willing to escort you to your vehicle.
- Lock up bicycles by their tires and frames when not in use. Get your bicycle registered free at Police and Parking Services.
- Copy down serial numbers of valuable items. If items are stolen, identification of serial numbers helps police return stolen goods.
- Prevent fires by not leaving ovens unattended, and don't light candles in rooms or offices.
- When on campus, program mobile phones to call Police dispatch (707) 664-2143. All campus phones will go directly to SSU dispatch when dialing 911.

Safety Services @ SSU

- Safety Escorts
- Disabled Motorist Assistance including lockouts and jump-starts
- Bicycle Registration and Property ID
- Resource & Safety Information Pamphlets
- Fingerprinting
- Defensive Driving Classes
- First Aid and CPR Certification

New to SSU

The Physical Security Specialist

~ Joining us here at Sonoma State University Police and Parking Services is Tyson Hill. One of Tyson's duties is to conduct security surveys of campus work areas. This program will be implemented to help assist campus members in taking all necessary steps to protect their physical work areas and prevent theft. It will help heighten awareness and give new insight for safer ways to operate. Also new to SSU are police officers **Neal MacKenzie**, **Karl Mortenson**, and **Clarence Jones**. Please welcome them all.



Information on Sexual Assaults

~ Sonoma State University will not tolerate sexual assault of any kind. Where there is probable cause to believe that a student, faculty, or staff member has violated the University's Sexual Assault Policy, all complaints will be investigated promptly and thoroughly. Even if the victim or criminal justice authorities choose not to prosecute, the University can pursue disciplinary action. Incidents involving non-members of the University community will be processed according to local and state laws. The Sexual Assault policy can be found on the web at www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/assaultpolicy.htm

Procedures for Reporting a Sexual Assault:

~ Persons who believe that they are victims of sexual assault, including witnesses, may report and discuss the matter with any of the following University employees:

- A counselor in Counseling and Psychological Services at x42153
- The Residential Life Coordinator (for on-campus residents) at x44033
- Student Health Center professional staff (a doctor or nurse) at x42921
- Any police officer at x42143 or 9-1-1

~ In compliance with the Clery Act, Sonoma State University publishes an annual report disclosing campus security policies and the last three years of certain crime statistics. To view the most recent Clery statistics, go to <http://www.sonoma.edu/ps/>

Emergency Preparedness

By Captain George Ellington

If you live in California, you will experience an earthquake. In fact, several small quakes occur each day throughout the state. But, what if "The Big One" strikes. Are you prepared?

Preparation is the key to surviving a major disaster. One thing that we can do to be better prepared is to create an emergency kit for both our home and work. The kit should include items such as food, water, medical supplies, flashlights and batteries.

A second key to living through the chaos that can be created by a severe earthquake is a family communications plan. Have a designated place to meet family and friends, and an out-of-state telephone number as a common point of contact.



Become More Aware Dare to Prepare

New California Driving Laws for 2006

- Street Racing Enforcement Takes Tougher Stance -

If a driver participates in a motor vehicle speed contest, new laws increase the jail time to a minimum of 30 days and a maximum of six months in jail when a person is found guilty and the driver causes injury to someone other than him or herself. If it is a second or subsequent offense and serious bodily injury occurs, the jail time is increased to a maximum of one year.

Vehicle Code §23109

- Head Lights on When Using Windshield Wipers -

During darkness and inclement weather, a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall be equipped with at least two lighted headlamps, with at least one on each side of the front of the vehicle. Lights must be on with a condition requiring the windshield wipers to be in continuous use due to rain, mist, snow, fog, or other precipitation or atmospheric moisture. Vehicle Code §24400

- Pocket Bikes are Illegal on Streets and Highways -

Vehicle Code, §21720 makes it illegal to operate a pocket bike on a sidewalk, roadway, or any other part of a highway, or on a bikeway, bicycle path or trail, equestrian trail, hiking or recreational trail, or on public lands open to off-highway motor vehicle use.

~This is a partial list of new laws for 2006. For more information on new laws for 2006 please go to <http://www.chp.ca.gov>

