



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

SSU Community:

The fall 2006 Semester brought with it new challenges and the need to be even more creative in our approach to crime prevention. With an increase in freshmen, we realized the need for more crime prevention and safety seminars. Homeland Security has enabled us to increase training and mitigation efforts in disaster preparedness. The launch of our traffic program is addressing traffic issues and related programs throughout campus.

The holiday season is a joyous time that encourages most of us to reflect on what's important and to prioritize life's challenges. It also brings stress, depression and opportunity for increased crime. During the season, be mindful of these factors and allow yourself time to focus and to be aware of your surroundings, particularly during shopping events. For example, approach ATMs with your access card handy and ready for the transaction; keep deposit envelopes in your car and fill in the information ahead of time. When approaching your car, look around for suspicious activity and have your vehicle key ready. If you place packages in your trunk and need to continue shopping, move your car to a different location. In the office, only use approved holiday decorations.

During the spring semester, you can expect to see a continuation of the lighting enhancement program, more emergency and disaster training offerings, and more traffic educational and enforcement activities.

We here at Police and Parking Services wish everyone a safe and memorable winter break.

Sincerely,

Chief Nate Johnson, Ed.D.

Safety Tips for Personal Offices, Property and Vehicles

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

- ★ Make sure to lock doors and windows in residence halls, offices and 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 to approved bike racks 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.

**Happy Holidays
From All The Staff Here At Police And
Parking Services!**



Emergency Preparedness

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?

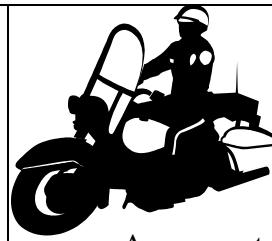
Preparation is the key to surviving a major disaster. One thing that we can do to be better prepared is to create an emergency kit for both our home and work. The kit should include items such as food, water, medical supplies, flashlights and batteries.

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.



What to do if there is an Earthquake!

- ~ When the ground starts to shake or move, find a safe spot to take cover. Find cover under a desk or stand beside a solid wall.
- ~ Remain calm.
- ~ Stay indoors during the shaking and stay away from windows, book cases, and other items that may fall.
- ~ Do not stand in open doorways! Contrary to common belief, doors will swing and move with great intensity during a quake. You are likely to be injured when standing in an open door way.
- ~ After the shaking stops, quickly assist the injured and leave the building immediately.
- ~ Meet in a designated safe area. Example, meet in an open space like a huge grassy area away from trees and buildings. If you do not have a designated safe area, designate one today and discuss it with all employees or roommates.
- ~ Discuss with loved ones how you will contact one another if an earthquake occurs. Having an out-of-state phone number to call is a good plan.. You can leave messages with your contact and family can check to see how you are doing without directly calling you.



A New Arrival at Sonoma State University

~ A new motorcycle has been added to the police force at Sonoma State University. This motorcycle will routinely enforce traffic laws at SSU. With the increased population of the school on the rise, and students everywhere, it is important that people drive within the speed limits and obey the laws. With the addition of the Beaujolais and the Sauvignon Villages students frequently travel between home and classes many times in a day. Parking lots also have steady streams of people crossing onto campus. This new motorcycle will be used as a tool to help enforce traffic. Sonoma State Police are taking a proactive approach to traffic enforcement. This department strives to make SSU a safer place for students, staff and faculty. Please join us in welcoming to SSU Corporal Larry Mckinley as our new motorcycle officer.

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 664-2153
 - The Residential Life Coordinator (for on-campus residents) at 664-4033
 - Student Health Center professional staff (a doctor or nurse) at 664-2921
 - Any police officer at 664-2143 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/>*

