



Campus Cops Corner

-Public Safety Tips for the PPCC Community-

Public Safety Newsletter

I recently made a trip to New York City. In my line of work (and much to the chagrin of my family), I can't help but notice safety and emergency precautions. Very few do it as well as my colleagues in NY. While traveling on the subway, I saw a placard which stated something to the effect of, "We don't need to evacuate very often, but when we do, it'll be important to do it properly." That made me reflect on our recent building evacuations and how we might improve.

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EVACUATION BASICS

While consistency in operations is very important, the dynamic nature of emergencies make it difficult, and often unwise, to impose blanket rules in all situations. I can easily describe a scenario where a particular emergency protocol would be appropriate, and then by changing the scenario only slightly, that protocol is no longer effective. None the less, there are a few simple rules regarding "evacuations" of which we should all be aware. There are a number of reasons why we might deem it necessary to evacuate our buildings. Emergencies which come to mind are fire, hazardous materials, structural issues, suspicious packages, or dangerous / criminal behavior by someone on campus. When we do direct an evacuation, you should:

- Recognize that there is no "negotiation" at this point as to whether the evacuation is required or not. If you heard the notice, it applies to you. Please don't call Public Safety to double-check. As you can imagine, we're awful busy during those times.
- Classroom professors should designate a meeting place outside the building. Please note that at a minimum, you should be at least 100 feet away from the building. While there are no "markers," some of the landmarks around the Centennial Campus would be:
 - the grassy area north of A-Lot
 - the bus stop area and E-Lot on the east
 - D-Lot to the south
 - And C-Lot to the west.

Please note that this would preclude standing in the Smoking Areas, in the Courtyard, near the flag pole, along South Service Drive, etc. Similar standards at the DTSC would compel evacuees to cross the street or go into the Penrose Library Parking Lot. Landmarks at Ram-part are a little more difficult to identify, but you can pace off 100 steps to get an idea.

My friends responding with the fire departments and ambulances ask that you make sure you stay out of the roadway.

- Ensure you assist any "special needs" persons as well.
- Calmly gather your immediate needs (professors should take their grade book so as to be able to account for everyone once there) and head out in an orderly and efficient fashion.
- Please remain outside until Public Safety or Facilities Personnel advise you that it's safe to return.

Important Numbers & websites:

- 24-7 Emergency Number: 502-2911
- Emergency Alert Sign Up: www.ppcc.edu/alert
- Crime Stoppers
634-STOP (7867)
- Anonymous Reporting
www.SAFE2TELL.org

1-877-542-7233