



CRIME PREVENTION HANDOUT

Whistle Defense Program

The University of Texas at San Antonio Police Department has available FREE key chain safety whistles for FEMALE UTSA STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF as a new personal defense system for our Tri-Campus Community.

The Whistle Defense Program is a campus safety program based on the use of whistles to alert patrol officers, students, faculty and staff that an offense or incident has occurred or is about to occur.

The whistle, when used for its intended purpose, can signal the need for help, scare away attackers so that a victim can receive aid, or simply attract attention in order to avoid an attack.

The intent of the Whistle Defense Program is to provide a means to *diffuse an immediate threat or a crime in progress*, not to *eliminate* crime. The UTSAPD does not encourage anyone other than a trained law enforcement officer to use physical means to subdue a criminal offender, which is why a shrill (over 100 decibels), loud blow on a whistle provides a positive, non-confrontational alternative.

Because the use of 'self-defense products' against a *victim* is a realistic concern, most programs discourage the use of items such as chemical sprays, batons, and other non-lethal or lethal weapons. A whistle, when carried on a key-chain, cannot be used against a person and, as such, is a safe, non-violent personal self-defense tool.

We believe that support for the Whistle Defense Program at UTSA will result in increased community awareness, thereby positively reducing crime on campus and improving community-police relations.

To find out more about this program or to request whistles contact the UTSAPD Crime Prevention Unit at 210.877.0046 or e-mail the Crime Prevention Officer at geoffrey.merritt@utsa.edu or crimeprevention@utsa.edu



For more information on the Whistle Defense Program, visit their web site at <http://www.americanwhistle.com/wd2.html>.