Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence by focusing on sexual assault and rape and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

Sexual assault takes many forms. It is any unwanted sexual contact, including rape or attempted rape. It can affect people of any gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or ability. According to the National Violence Against Women Survey, 1 in 6 American women has been the victim of rape or attempted rape. Another study found that nearly 5 percent of college women are victimized by sexual assault in any given calendar year. Over the course of a college career, the percentage of sexual assault victimization among women in college might climb to between one-fifth and one-quarter of all college-age women.

The UTSA Women’s Resource Center is planning a number of events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month including: a Kick-Off at the University Center Paseo on April 1 starting at 12:30 pm; Girls Night Out on April 8 at UC Ballroom II starting at 7:00 pm; and SAAM Day of Action on April 20. All these events are free and open to all staff and students. The WRC is a safe space on campus where students can learn more about the issues affecting women and has many resources such as a library, brochures & pamphlets and various support groups. The UTSA Counseling Services office offers students and the campus community a variety of professional services for any concerns important in the lives of students. UTSA also has a licensed counselor designated as a Sexual Assault Advocate.

Working together as a community, we can raise awareness, change attitudes, and help prevent sexual assault from occurring to our loved ones. If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, please call the UTSA Police Dept. at 210.458.4242 to report the incident. UTSA Counseling Center (210.458.4142) or the San Antonio Rape Crisis Center (210.349.7273) can also assist.

References: ncrs.org/saan, ovw.usdoj.gov, utsa.edu/arc & rcrs.gov

Be a Safe Driver: Tips to Reduce Your Risks

UTSAPD Wants You To Drive Safe. Practice These Safe Driving Tips.
Photo: Google Images

Up to three-fourths of all traffic accidents are attributed to a single cause: driver error. That means there is much you can do to prevent yourself from adding to the statistics. Following the six tips listed below will dramatically reduce your likelihood of becoming involved in a serious crash.

LEAVE THE PHONE ALONE. Recent studies show that distracted drivers contribute to about 80 percent of vehicle accidents and that motorists are slower to react when they are talking on a cell phone. Sending and viewing text messages while driving can be even more dangerous. If you need to use your cell phone or other electronic device, pull safely off the road to do so and limit your conversations with others.

DON’T DRIVE IMPAIRED. Alcohol-related crashes claimed 41 percent of the traffic fatalities in 2006. Make sure to have a non-drinking driver as the designated driver and be on the lookout for vehicles that do not stay in their lane or respond slowly to traffic signals. Drivers of these vehicles may be intoxicated.

SLOWDOWN. Speeding was a factor in 31 percent of all fatal crashes in 2006 according the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. In particularly, watch your speed when you are NOT on the interstate. 87 percent of speeding related fatalities occurred on roads other than interstate highways.

RESTRAIN YOURSELF. Safety belts have saved hundreds of thousands of lives, including 15,383 lives in 2006. Don’t think that because your vehicle has air bags, you don’t need to buckle up. Air bags are designed to work on restrained passengers, not unbuckled ones.

Be a safe driver this spring by following these important tips.


UTSA Office of Business Affairs: Your Partner for Successful Solutions!
National Public Safety Telecommunications Week (April 11-17) has been set aside so everyone can be made aware of the hard work and dedication of public safety dispatchers who provide a vital link to the safety services on which we have come to rely. Sooner or later in life, most of us have a reason to call 9-1-1. When we do, we're fortunate to have someone trained and qualified to help us on the other end of the line. The term "9-1-1" is often associated with rapid emergency response, poised under pressure, aid and compassion in times of distress. Many people don't stop to think about the seemingly nameless, faceless individuals who answer 9-1-1's call until they experience actual emergencies themselves.

Each year since 1991, the second full week of April has been dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunications who aid in providing 9-1-1 emergency assistance to citizens everywhere, including the UTSA community. The UTSA Police Department proudly honors the staff who serve as our public safety dispatchers: Cindy Cantu (supervisor), Gilberto Morales, James A. Garcia, Jeffrey Volz, Monica Garcia, Rafael Petito, Raymond Mesa, April Herrera and Connie Kimbrough.

As part of National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, UTSA-PD has nominated Police Communications Officer Jeffrey Volz for the Silent Hero Award with Bexar Metro 9-1-1 Network District. Jeff began his career as a Police Communications Operator with UTSA-PD on March 27, 2006. Jeff works the 3rd shift (11 pm - 7 am), he goes above and beyond to make sure his officers and the UTSA community are safe. He thinks ahead and gets the information the officers/public may need even before being asked to do so. He has received several Positive Performance Reports for his efforts while on duty and off duty. Bexar Metro will select a winner and the award will be presented at the 2010 Telecommunicators Appreciation Luncheon on April 13, 2010 in Schertz, Texas.

The UTSA-PD Communications Center processes thousands of calls each year for emergency and non-emergency services on campus as well as monitor security cameras, access control gates and the campus security/fire system. Thank you to our police dispatchers for all the sacrifices they make to create a better and safer world for the public. Their commitment to their profession is appreciated by the officers, guards and the citizens they serve.

Reference: Cindy Cantu (Dispatch Supervisor) and apco911.org

**Officer Piepho’s Crime Prevention Tip of the Month**

**BE SAFE ON A DATE: Dating and Date Rape Drugs**

Date rape is forced or coerced sex. Drugs may be used to render the victim unconscious and limit memory. The most common drug is alcohol. Trust your instincts. If a situation makes you uncomfortable or uneasy, leave. Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you. Limit your intake of alcohol. References: www.fortworthpd.com

**Be Smart...Be Safe: Burglary of Vehicle Awareness**

One type of property crime that seems to never go away is burglary of vehicles. This crime happens when a thief enters a car and steals items out of the car. Vehicle burglary is most often a crime of opportunity, sometimes our own carelessness often causes our vehicles to be broken into.

There have been over 15 vehicle break-ins on UTSA campuses during 2010. This is a 117% increase in vehicle burglaries over the same time period of 2009. Since January 1, 2010, five of these break-ins have occurred at the Downtown Campus and 4 have happened in the parking lots of University Oaks Apartments. Most of these burglaries of vehicles happen during the daytime hours when most students and staff are on campus.

The main cause of vehicle burglaries is the placement of valuable items visible within the passenger compartment. Laptop computers, cellular phones, MP3 players, GPS systems, purses, briefcases and camera equipment are some of the most frequently stolen items. This is attributed to how easily the property can be seen by potential thieves from outside of the vehicle. Once inside a vehicle, the burglar steals what he sees that is valuable and easy to take. The thief typically checks the glove compartment, middle console, under the seat and above the visor for any item of value that can be stolen.

The UTSA Police Department would like to stress the importance in the value of prevention. By simply being cognizant and taking a few simple steps in securing your property, the chances of becoming a victim of property theft can be considerably reduced.

Remember to lock your vehicle and take your keys after you park. Make sure to close all windows, including sunroofs. You can also install a good alarm to protect your car.

Make sure to remove visible items from your vehicle. Your car is not a great storage place. If you leave items visible in your car, you are a target. Take items with you or lock them in your trunk before arriving home or to a parking lot.

If you observe suspicious activity that makes you think someone is committing a crime, immediately call the University Police at 210.458.4911. An officer will be dispatched to the location to determine if a crime is being committed.

Don't wait to become a victim of property crime. You can minimize your chances of being a victim of property crime by following the tips above.

References: City of Carriera & City of Manhattan Beach, CA PD's, Sacramento Sheriff's Department
Safety Highlights by Donovan Agans (Director BCEM)

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard. The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. More than half of all flood related deaths result from vehicles being swept downstream. Of these, many are preventable.

What can you do to avoid getting caught in this situation? Follow these safety rules:
- Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes etc. Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around Don’t Drown Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. Turn Around Don’t Drown™
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Determine alternate routes to work and home prior to flood occurrence.

For more information on flood safety visit the National Weather Service Flood Safety website at www.weather.gov/floodsafety or the San Antonio Flood Emergency Website at www.safesafe.com.

Reference: National Weather Service

Employee Kudos: Go out to Guard William Sanders and Guard Priscilla Trevino for their hard work in setting up Parking Lot 5 for a high profile special event in the Convocation Center. Way to go!

Campus Lighting Upgrades Coming Soon

The Office of Facilities will soon start a project titled “UTSA Student Safety and Security Improvements”. This project will focus on improving and adding lighting on the Main Campus and the Monterrey Building areas. The project should begin on April 1, 2010 and end on August 20, 2010. Some of the areas that will be addressed include:
- South sidewalk area of Convocation Center
- North Paseo between Business Building and HSS
- Sombrilla area, especially near the flag poles by JPL and Arts
- Walkways near the Intramural Fields and south of Chaparral Village
- Monterey Building parking lot and the crosswalk of Frio Street

The areas that were identified as deficient in lighting were found during many light surveys that the UTSAPD Crime Prevention Unit conducted. Most of these surveys were based on the input from patrol officers and guards who saw the deficiencies and forwarded those concerns to crime prevention. The Crime Prevention Unit wants to thank the patrol officers and guards for truly making this a safer campus for the faculty, staff and students.

Detective Time by Sgt. Thomas Calucci (Supervisor, Criminal Investigations)

I would like to start by saying welcome back from Spring Break. I’m sure you all got plenty of rest and are reenergized to finish out the semester. Well, maybe some of you got some rest. As you were enjoying some time off, I was completing the last phase of a three week long leadership training program. Specifically, this class teaches leadership skills in police organizations. This class, to me, was a life changing class in that it taught different ways to achieve the goals of the organization while satisfying the needs of the individual employees. Police work in itself can be dangerous and difficult. When you become a supervisor you are not only tasked with serving the public, but also shaping the people around you. If you don’t have the tools to achieve change, you will not be successful. I can’t wait to put some of the things I learned to good use.

One of the things we talked about in this class is the trust you, the UTSA community, place in us to get our job done. This is not something we take lightly. We know that if we fracture that trust, it’s going to be a long time before we can get it back. Trust is a fragile thing. What I want this community to know is that you can trust this police department to do our job to the best of our ability. Sometimes we have to do some unpopular things, but you need to have the trust in us that we are trying to protect this community the best way we can. But we can’t do it alone. We will always need your help. I urge each person in this community to stand up and not tolerate crime on our campuses. If you see something suspicious happening, call us. If you know who is responsible for a theft or burglary, call us. Crime affects us all and it is up to us all to fight back.
**Schedule of Events For April 2010**

**Thursday Apr. 8, 2010**
*Thirsty Thursdays*

11:00 am at UC Paseo

Come have a thirst-quenching good time with the Be A Responsible Roadrunner (BARR) Consultants!

**Thursday Apr. 8, 2010**
*Girls Night Out (SAAM Event)*

7 pm at UC Ballroom II

Night of fun with helpful info on issues that affect women and tons of give-aways.

**Thursday Apr. 15, 2010**
*Coffee With the Cops*

8:30 pm at UC Starbucks

The UTSAPD Crime Prevention Unit will be at the UC Starbucks. Come have some coffee with us!

**Thursday Apr. 22, 2010**
*Party On The Paseo*

6:30 pm at UC Paseo

A safe and fun alternative to college night at Fiesta. Food, fun and non-alcoholic drinks are offered.

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**Lost and Found**

All found property that is turned in to the University Police Lost & Found section is stored at the University Police Lost & Found for 60 days. After 60 days, the found property is transferred to the Surplus Property Department for public auctions or further disposition.

To report lost property items or to make inquiries regarding lost property call 210.458.4242 (24 hours a day). To claim found property items, individuals must present a valid Texas Driver’s license, UTSAPD photo ID card or a valid photo ID card from another source; military ID or another state photo ID card. Individuals must be able to accurately describe the property that was lost in order to claim property from the lost & found section.

The below listed items are currently being held by UTSAPD. If not claimed in 30 days, they will be disposed of in accordance with policy.

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**Crime Report for the Month of March 2010**

The below is a summary of the crimes that occurred in the month of March 2010. For more information, go to www.utsa.edu/utsapd and click on Crime Stats.

- **Thefts** = 29
- **Alcohol Arrests** = 14
- **Burglary of Vehicle** = 5
- **Drug Arrests** = 5
- **Assaults** = 3
- **DUI Arrests** = 9
- **Theft of Motor Vehicle** = 0
- **Other Crimes** = 12
Going to Fiesta San Antonio This Year? Have Fun, But Stay Safe.

Fiesta is a 10-day, city-wide, fun-filled, multi-cultural, family-oriented celebration. With over 100 different events, it's the biggest party and greatest community benefit in the state of Texas. This year, Fiesta runs April 15 to 25, 2010.

Three of the biggest events during Fiesta are the Fiesta Carnival, St. Mary's University Oyster Bake and Night in Old San Antonio. The Fiesta Carnival has rides and a wide assortment of foods in downtown San Antonio. St. Mary's University Oyster Bake began in 1916 as a small gathering of alumni. Since that time the event has grown into one of the most popular Fiesta celebrations especially with college students. NIOSA is the largest historic preservation festival in the nation and has more than 240 elaborately decorated food and drink booths. All of these events and more will be held in the hot outdoors, with big crowds and plenty of alcoholic beverages.

The UTSA Police Department wants you to have a safe and enjoyable Fiesta this year. Please follow these safety tips to help avoid problems:

- Watch what you drink and know your limits. A good rule is 0-1-3: 0 drinks if you're driving or underage, 1 drink per hour, no more than 3 drinks in an evening.
- DO NOT DRINK & DRIVE. Use a designated driver or choose public transportation.
- Park in well lighted areas. You can park at the Downtown Campus parking lots with your student permit.
- Avoid over exposure & limit your time in the sun.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Keep your money in a safe place.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission will have undercover and uniformed officers at various Fiesta events. The undercover officers will look for minors who attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages and vendors who sell alcoholic beverages to minors. Law Enforcement agencies of the Bexar County DWI Task Force will have extra officers on patrol during the Fiesta events to assist with DWI and alcohol enforcement. Various alcohol violations can range from a $500 fine all the way to one year in jail. Driving While Intoxicated offenses can result in six months in jail, a $2000 fine and loss of your driver’s license.

Above all, have fun and enjoy Fiesta. UTSA PD wants you to be safe.

Assistant Chief
Pena Says:

Many thanks to Kayla Larsen, Trilisa Garrett and Rebecca Gomez... ...for their hard work on the Homecoming decoration contest. We finished in the “Honorable Mention” category.

Thanks for your hard work!

Sgt. Charles "Big Iron" Patnode Wins Cowboy Shooting Award

Sgt. Charles Patnode competed at the National Championship of the Single Action Shooting Society Winter Range 2010. It was held February 24 through 28, 2010 in Phoenix, AZ. There were 655 registered shooters representing 40 states and 5 different countries.

Sgt. Patnode won first place in the Pocket Pistol for the third year in a row using an original Smith & Wesson pistol that was made in 1905! Way to go “Big Iron”!

The Bottom Line by Assistant Chief Dan Pena

It's difficult to believe that in this day and age of increased awareness of crime and in particular for this month, sexual violence and crimes against women, that this is still such a difficult issue in our modern society. Nonetheless, our everyday experience in serving our community unfortunately reveals that women and men are still too often the victims of sexual crimes.

Experience with victims has taught us that awareness and education about the realities of sexual violence is one of the best prevention strategies available. To this end, we highly encourage everyone to attend one or more of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month events occurring during April. By participating in the awareness events we can take an honest, objective and realistic look at the nature of sexual violence and how to avoid situations that pre-dispose women and men from becoming victims. The awareness sessions also help to provide information about how to recognize the behaviors that may be present when someone has been the victim of sexual violence. Participants will also learn about making smart choices that avoid behaviors or activities that create potentially dangerous situations.

As we head into another April with Fiesta activities, making smart choices has never been more important. Be careful, be smart and enjoy Fiesta! We remain as dedicated as ever to protecting your future... today.

The University of Texas at San Antonio Police Department
One UTSA Circle San Antonio, Texas 78249 | 210.458.4242 210.458.7602 fax
UTSAPD is a CALEA accredited law enforcement agency
Please visit our website at www.utsa.edu/utsapd