Play It Safe This Year at Spring Break

Looking forward to getting away from classes and spending a week hanging out with friends on a beautiful beach? Spring Break is a part of the college experience, and it can be one of the highlights of your college career—if you’re careful. The tips you are about to read are important whether you’re traveling in or out of the country, so stay alert and play it safe, no matter where you choose to soak up your rays and release your stress.

Property Safety
- Take as few valuables with you on your trip as possible.
- Always lock your hotel room door.
- Watch out for scam artists who try to rip off students.
- If your cell phone or credit cards are stolen, report this immediately to the companies so they can cancel your service.

Physical Safety
- Always stay in the proximity of at least one friend. Adhere strictly to this “buddy system” and do not leave with someone other than your buddies.
- Do not leave with strangers, even if it seems like a good idea. Always err on the side of caution and trust your instincts.
- Watch your drink very carefully! Be aware of “date rape” drugs that people may try to sneak into your drink.
- Never go to an isolated place with a stranger or someone you do not fully trust.
- Carry a cell phone with you in case of an emergency.

- Carry your identification and important medical information on your person in case of an emergency.

Alcohol Safety
- If you’re going to drink during Spring Break, it’s very important that you take precautions. Drunk college students are seen as a target, so do not underestimate the way to take these reasonable precautions.
- Binge drinking gets students into trouble the most. The safest approach is to not binge drink and to know your limit with alcohol.
- Make sure you know the signs and symptoms of alcohol poisoning.
- Do not drink and drive, ever.
- Remember, you must be 21 years old to drink alcohol.

Watch for Drowsy Driving This Spring Break

Sleepiness and driving is a dangerous combination. Most people are aware of the dangers of drinking and driving but don’t realize that drowsy driving can be just as fatal. Like alcohol, sleepiness slows reaction time, decreases awareness, and impairs judgment and increases your risk of crashing. Falling asleep at the wheel is known as the “silent killer” because it is under reported as the cause of fatal traffic crashes. There is no accurate test to determine the level of sleepiness like there is to determine for DWI offenses.

A typical crash related to sleepiness has one or more of the following characteristics:
- Crash is likely to be serious
- A single vehicle leaves the road
- The crash occurs on a high speed road like a highway

The driver does not attempt to avoid a crash
- The driver is alone in the vehicle

To avoid a drowsy driving accident, follow these tips:
- Get adequate sleep; about 7-9 hours a night
- Schedule proper breaks; about every 2 hours
- Avoid alcohol and sedating medications
- Stop driving; find a safe place to sleep for the night

Caffeine -- does it help?
Caffeine promotes short-term alertness. It takes about 30 minutes for caffeine to begin working so the best thing to do is pull over for a coffee or other caffeinated beverage, take a break and then get back on the road. The equivalent of 2 cups of coffee can increase alertness for several hours.

Simply put, a tired driver is a dangerous driver. Just like driving drunk or drugged, drowsy driving causes you to make mistakes behind the wheel — mistakes that can injure or kill the driver, passengers or total strangers.

References: DPS Website, edmondsusa.com, drowsydriving.org
Secure It Keep It Campaign Begins for Spring 2010

The UTSA Police Department presents again the “Secure It, Keep It” program, an anti-theft awareness campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to decrease theft on campus by creating awareness among students, faculty and staff to secure their belongings and avoid potential theft.

Analysis of crime statistics from the UTSA Police Department shows that a vast majority of all thefts that occurred at UTSA were crimes of opportunity where the property was left unattended in an unsecured area for a specific period of time and where some action by the owner could have prevented the theft. The goal of the “Secure It, Keep It” campaign is to build awareness to decrease the potential for theft on campus.

Trends show that most thefts occur on campus prior to the start of spring break and early in the fall semester. The “Secure It, Keep It” campaign is beginning to show signs that it is working to create awareness on campus. What makes it work is the increased messages around campus that tells people to be aware of theft on campus and to secure their belongings. Advertising efforts will include print and electronic media to promote the campaign.

In 2008, UTSAPD requested the assistance of Dr. Thomas F. Cannon, Department of Marketing, College of Business, to assist in the development of the awareness campaign. Through a series of meetings with Dr. Cannon, the famous “Secure It, Keep It” logo was developed. The logo conveys the sense of awareness to secure belongings and avoid potential thefts while the words reinforce the visual of the logo.

“Secure It, Keep It” is a great educational tool that will be utilized to make it difficult for those who come onto our campus looking to take what belongs to others. It is only when we work together, police, faculty, staff, and students that we can ensure that the good guys win!

Reference: Dr. Cannon’s “Secure It, Keep It” proposal, training‐concern.org & buskingustars.com

Employee Kudos: Go out to Officer Jovany Vega and Guard Cordell Robinson who caught a non‐UTSA person stealing articles from housing area laundry rooms. After a short chase, the suspect was arrested. It was later determined that he was a criminal history. Way to go!

Officer Piepho’s Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

SPRING BREAK - SAFETY TIPS

Be Rowdy Be Responsible. Remember that drunk = easy target for crime. Drinking & driving is always a dangerous situation, so avoid this by having your safe mode of transportation home planned before you go out.

Go out with your friends, go home with your friends. It’s one of those things that keeps you a whole lot safer, and eliminates about 98% of the bad drama. This way you can look out for one another, and get a friend home who is too intoxicated to be out.

References: www.safespringbreak.org

UTSAPD Has Internship Program for Criminal Justice Majors

Each semester, the UTSA Police Department offers two to three internship positions for UTSA students or other college students who are majoring in Criminal Justice. Typically most students begin their internship in their junior or senior year and are required to complete a total of 150 hours.

The purpose of the internship program is to allow students an opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in law enforcement. Internships are typically composed of 80% observation and 20% actual work. Observation experiences for interns included a wide variety of assignments. Interns are rotated through all areas of the police department to give the intern a good understanding of how all sections work together to meet the needs of the community in which the department serves. Usually the Intern is assigned to the Administrative Section, Support Services Division and then the Patrol Division. They spend time on all three patrol shifts and in Communications. Interns are also exposed to functions at the Main Campus and Downtown Campus.

An internship with the UTSAPD is a rich and rewarding experience for the intern. We provide students with an opportunity to be actual participants and observers in the day-to-day operations of a law enforcement agency. Interns have the opportunity to compare and contrast academic teachings to real life situations.

A former intern recently wrote a thank you letter to the department. She said, “As a student intern with the UTSA Police Department I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your support of UTSA and its students by making this internship possible. Your willingness to assist students allowed me to be able to partake in this internship opportunity. Thank you! I want to express appreciation for voluntarily allowing students to intern with your agency and investing time to work with me and teach me what exactly happens within the UTSA Police Department. I have definitely come out of the internship with a different perspective on policing and UTSA Police. Once again, thank you for allowing me to intern with your agency and helping me move closer to achieving my educational and career goals.”

The internship program is supervised by Ofc. Melody Piepho of the Crime Prevention Unit. She develops the curriculum and standards, schedules the interns and acts as the point of contact for the student’s professor. For more information on internships, call 210.877.4006.

UTSA Office of Business Affairs: Your Partner for Successful Solutions!
**Safety Highlights** by Donovan Agans (Director BCEM)

Americans live in the most severe weather-prone country on Earth. Each year, Americans cope with an average of 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,000 tornadoes, and an average of 2 land falling deadly hurricanes. And this on top of intense summer heat, high winds, wild fires and other deadly weather impacts in San Antonio. Some 90% of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly $14 billion in damage. The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans.

To help foster a greater culture of preparedness and greater community awareness about severe weather the Office of Business Continuity & Emergency Management has partnered with the College of Science and College of Engineering to sponsor the National Weather Service SKYWARN® training on 25 March in the UC III Ballroom at 9 am. BCEM and the NWS encourage anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication to attend the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

The instruction will include the following topics:
- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

After training attendees will help keep our community safe. Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms and provide timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. SKYWARN® storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather.

Representatives from the San Antonio Flood Emergency (SAFE) program and Crime Prevention will also be in attendance to provide valuable safety and security information and expertise to all.

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**Great Job!**

Did you know that a Half Marathon is about 13 miles long?

If you did not know, ask Cpl. Elizabeth Carter and Ofc. Melody Piepho. They completed the Austin Half Marathon on February 14, 2010. Both officers trained hard throughout the year to prepare themselves for the half marathon. Although both were tired after the run, they were proud to have completed the race.

We are proud of you also! Great job Cpl. Carter and Ofc. Piepho!

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**Take the Initiative to Make a Difference:**

Our department is seeking men and women from all backgrounds who want to take the initiative to make a difference in service to the university community as a police officer. We offer excellent training, great pay and benefits and opportunities for advancement. To apply, go to www.utsajobs.com. More information about the department, go to www.utsa.edu/utsapd. Hurry! Position closes March 19th!

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

It seems like every day I turn on the news, I hear of some shooting or other act of violence taking place in a university, college or school community. It seems that law enforcement is going to have their hands full addressing these incidents. After the tragedy at Virginia Tech occurred, I was tasked with developing a program to address those individuals who may pose a threat to our campus community. Little did I know that the UT System had also directed our Student Activities Office to do the same thing. Once we each learned what the other was doing, we decided to put our heads together and put together a program. My vision of a program was not only to address student behavioral concerns, but also those of faculty, staff, visitors and contract workers as well.

UTSA’s Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) was born. The core team consists of representatives of the Police Department, Student Activities and the Counseling Center. The mission of our team is to respectfully, confidentially and professionally respond to behavioral concerns that members of the university community may have. We are also here to counsel faculty and staff with concerns they may have in the classroom or workplace. The UTSA BIT is still in its infancy. We are working to increase awareness that UTSA will address behavioral concerns when they are reported. I urge any member of our community to report any behavioral concerns to our website www.utsa.edu/bit.

On another note, I had the privilege of teaching a self defense class to about twenty students at the Rec Center the other night. I had a great time and I even let some of the ladies throw me around a little bit. Alright, I let the guys throw me around too.

If you have any questions or would like some more information, please contact me at Thomas.calucci@utsa.edu.
Schedule of Events For March

**Wednesday Mar. 10, 2010**
**Safe Spring Break Fair**
Mar 8 - 10am at DTC
Featuring health screenings, wellness activities and crime prevention info for a safe spring break.

**Wednesday Mar. 10, 2010**
**Safe Spring Break Dinner**
5pm at Roadrunner Café
Be A Responsible Roadrunner (BARR) is hosting a Safe Spring Break Dinner to share safety information.

**Thursday Mar. 11, 2010**
**Thirsty Thursdays**
11:00 at UC Paseo
Come have a thirst-quenching good time with the Be A Responsible Roadrunner (BARR) Consultants!

**Thursday Mar. 18, 2010**
**Coffee With the Cops**
8:00 pm at UC Starbucks
The UTSAPD Crime Prevention Unit will be at the UC Starbucks. Come have some coffee with us!

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, UTSA 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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<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
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Crime Report for the Month of February 2010

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

- Thefts = 16
- Burglary of Vehicle = 2
- Assaults = 2
- Theft of Motor Vehicle = 0
- Alcohol Arrests = 35
- Drug Arrests = 13
- DWI Arrests = 14
- Other Crimes = 2

The UTSA Police Department wishes all faculty, staff and students a very happy and safe spring break!
Slow Down Or Move Over For Law Enforcement and Emergency Workers

The Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) are teaming up to remind drivers to show law enforcement officers and emergency workers they care by moving over or slowing down.

TxDOT will display the move-over or slow-down message on their electronic message boards. The message boards will read, “IF EMERGENCY VEHICLE STOPPED AHEAD, MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN. IT’S THE LAW.”

Although both DPS and TxDOT have worked to educate drivers about this law, Highway Patrol troopers and other law enforcement officers continue to see drivers who do not move over or slow down for emergency vehicles. The law applies to stopped emergency vehicles with lights activated, including police, emergency medical service and fire vehicles.

In Texas, in 2009, nine crashes involved an emergency vehicle that was parked for emergency purposes, including law enforcement traffic stops. Although the number is relatively low, each crash can have catastrophic results.

The move-over or slow-down law requires drivers nearing stopped emergency vehicles with emergency lights activated to either slow down or change lanes. Specifically, the law states a driver must either slow down 20 miles per hour below the speed limit or vacate the lane closest to the stopped emergency vehicle that has emergency lights activated if the road has multiple lanes traveling in the same direction. (If the speed limit is below 25 mph, the driver must slow down to 5 mph.) Drivers should only move over if they can safely and legally do so; otherwise, they should slow down.

This law requires drivers to give them and other emergency vehicles the space they need to perform their duties safely.

A violation is punishable by a maximum fine of $200. If the violation results in property damage, the maximum fine increases to $500.

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Assistant Chief Pena Says:

Thanks to Guards Crist, Tschudy and Pacheco for assisting patrol officers with checks of the housing areas.

Several problem issues were discovered that were later addressed by Officers.

Thanks for the hard work!

Rainn’s Top 10 Spring Break Tips:

1. Get to know your surroundings before you go out and learn a well-lit route back to your hotel or rental property.
2. Always carry emergency cash and keep phone numbers for local cab companies handy.
3. Form a buddy system with close friends and agree on a secret “but” in signal for uncomfortable situations.
4. Trust your instincts. If you feel unsafe, go with your gut.
5. Avoid being alone or isolated with someone you don’t know or trust.
6. Don’t accept drinks from people you don’t know or trust.
7. Never leave your drink unattended, and if you do lose sight of it, get a new one.
8. Always watch your drink being prepared.
9. Try to buy drinks in bottles, which are harder to tamper with than cups or glasses.
10. Avoid putting music headphones in both ears so that you can be more aware of your surroundings, especially if you are walking alone.

The Bottom Line by Assistant Chief Dan Pena

As you have seen from all the articles presented this month, we have talked quite a bit about spring break safety and how to avoid potential dangers. I want to also speak a little about the decision making process we all go through as we decide what “fun” activities we are going to engage in. After a busy semester, most of us look forward to break from the hectic schedule of classes, studies, research, tests and class projects. While the last thing on most people’s mind is a decision process about how to have fun, it’s worth the effort to take just a brief moment to consider the very basic message in the articles presented this month, and that is – be safe.

The whole point of spring break is to have fun and relax, but the true goal is to have fun during the break and return to school to complete the semester and be one step closer to graduation. To that end, we encourage you to have the best spring break ever, just make sure you make the choices that will let you enjoy the memory of this spring break for many years into the future.

Make responsible decisions this spring break.

Assistant Chief Dan Pena

UTSA Police Department

Photo From: Flip