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 go.

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 the “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.

Additional Precautions
- Always use sunscreen with at least an SPF of 15 or higher.
- Never swim alone, and avoid swimming when no lifeguard is present.
- Drink lots of water! Don’t rely on alcoholic or carbonated beverages to quench your thirst.

TABC Warns of Alcoholic Energy Drinks

Alcoholic energy drinks are fruit-flavored, caffeinated, alcoholic beverages sold in brightly colored cans and have raised widespread concern among the medical and law enforcement community. The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission says the cans and bottles are similar to non-alcoholic containers and people may not notice the difference. The drinks, with their sleek graphics, cost less than energy drinks without alcohol and are marketed to appeal to young college students.

The stimulant effect of caffeine and the depressant effect of alcohol do not cancel each other out, but have a different effect. Caffeine can partially cancel out the feeling of being drunk, but not the actual impairment of alcohol. College students that mix alcohol with caffeinated energy drinks are at higher risk for alcohol-related injuries than students who drink regular cocktails. Researchers have found that students who drank the energy cocktails were twice as likely to be hurt or injured and twice as likely to require medical attention. They are more likely to binge drink, drive drunk, or be taken advantage of in a sexual situations.

To combat this, TABC is kicking off a spring break campaign to prevent alcoholic energy drinks from being accidentally sold to minors. Each spring break TABC agents look for underage drinkers on the beaches from Galveston to South Padre Island. Agents along the coast will be conducting random inspections, minor stings and other enforce-
Be Smart...Be Safe: Travel to Mexico During Spring Break

In years past, taking a “side-trip” to Mexico during spring break at the south Texas coast was a tradition for many college students. The Mexican government makes a considerable effort to protect U.S. citizens to major tourist destinations, and there is no evidence that drug cartels have targeted U.S. visitors. Resort areas and tourist destinations in Mexico generally do not see the levels of drug-related violence that are reported in the border regions. Nevertheless, U.S. travelers should be aware that the Mexican government has been engaged in an extensive effort to counter drug cartels and other unlawful activities throughout Mexico. Crime and violence are serious problems throughout the country and can occur anywhere. U.S. citizens have become victims of kidnapping, car-jacking and highway robbery. Other violent events include the killing of a UT-Brownsville student in Mexico and the discovery of stray bullets found on the campus of UT-El Paso last year. On February 08, 2012, the U.S. Department of State has issued a Travel Warning to inform U.S. citizens about the security situation in Mexico and ways to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime. The points to be aware of include:

- While traveling in Mexico, American citizens are subject to Mexican law.
- Mexican law can impose harsh penalties for violations that would be considered minor in the United States.
- Excessive alcohol consumption and unruly behavior can lead to serious problems with Mexican authorities.
- Use only the licensed and regulated "sitio" or taxis.
- It is best not to carry even a pocketknife into Mexico as this can result in a weapons charge.

- For any emergencies involving U.S. citizens in Mexico, please contact the closest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.
- Lower your profile and avoid displaying any evidence of wealth that might draw attention.
- Cooperate with official checkpoints when traveling on Mexican highways.
- Travel during daylight on toll roads.

Travelers going to Mexico over spring break should refer to the State Department’s “Country Specific Information for Mexico” available at the US State Department’s website at http://travel.state.gov/.

References: travel.state.gov, txdps.state.tx.us & azcentral.com

Employee Kudos: This comment came off of the UTSAPD website: “I wanted to say ‘Thank You’ so very, very much in all the help you provided in locating my son Friday night at your main campus. I will always remember your dedication to helping me in my concern for his safety late at night. Thank You. Thank You!” Way to go!

Officer Piepho’s Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

Safe Spring Break

Have fun, but stay safe. If you go out with friends, come home with the same friends and not someone you just met. Make a plan and stick to it. If you choose to drink, pace yourself and remember the rule: 0 drinks if you’re driving or under age. It is best not to carry even a pocketknife into Mexico as this can result in a weapons charge.

Know the Texas “move over” law

Accident scene of Officer Esquivel

Photo From: Google Images/KSAT12

On Sunday February 19, 2012 San Antonio Police Officer Jonathan Esquivel was struck by a pickup truck as he worked an accident scene on Interstate 410 on the northwest side of the city. Officer Esquivel was placing traffic cones at an accident scene to protect other officers working that accident. According to reports, the driver of the pickup truck had taken his eyes off the road briefly and hit the 28-year-old officer when he swerved to avoid hitting the stopped vehicles. Officer Esquivel is still hospitalized and will require at least three lifesaving surgeries. All of this could have been avoided if the pickup truck driver had slowed down or moved over as required by Texas law. The Texas Department of Public Safety and TxDOT has worked hard to educate drivers about this law, however law enforcement officers and emergency workers 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.

The latest number for Texas in 2009 shows that 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.

Reference: Texas Department of Public Safety Press Release, KENS TV
Spring is upon us, and with the changing of the seasons comes the threat of severe weather and flooding. Take time on a sunny day to be prepared for those occasional stormy days. What does severe weather mean, you may wonder? Severe weather includes thunderstorms, downbursts, lightning, tornadoes, waterspouts, tropical cyclones (hurricanes), and dust storms.

With the increased risk of severe weather in our area during the spring time, it’s important to recognize what our number one threat is: flooding. A flood or flash flood WATCH means a flood is possible in your area. A flood or flash flood WARNING means flooding is already occurring or will occur soon in your area.

In Texas, flood awareness week is from March 12 – 16, 2012, whereby public safety organizations promote preparedness around San Antonio, and can offer you readiness tips and resources. The following tips and information will help you before and during flood conditions:

- When a thunderstorm is approaching, keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, lightning, or increasing wind. Listen for the sound of thunder.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately.
- Moving water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Twelve inches can sweep a car off the road. It’s best to turn around, don’t drown.
- Standing flood water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Crossing or disregarding a barricade in San Antonio is a Class B misdemeanor that includes a fine of up to $2,000 and up to 180 days in jail. Moving a barricade posted at a low water crossing also is a Class B misdemeanor that may result in a fine of up to $1,000 and up to two years in jail. You can be arrested for either offense. Additionally, the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) charges a fee of $400 for each person rescued from a designated low water crossing.
- Listen to local radio or TV stations for flood information, and monitor the UTSA Campus Alerts webpage at http://alerts.utsa.edu

Remember that the best decision you can make during severe weather and/or a flood is to shelter-in-place and ride out the storm. For more information on flooding in our area, please visit the www.floodsmart.gov. Sources: American Red Cross, City of San Antonio, National Flood Insurance Program.

Emergency Management would like to thank the following Floor Captains for their work during the Fire Alarm Incident in the Main Building on Feb 20:

1. Michael Logan, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies 3rd floor
2. Evaristo Hinojosa, Office of the President
3. Kendra Michael, Office of the Dean 1st floor
4. Elisha Reynolds, Graduate Studies
5. Amanda Flores, Office of Advising Certification & Placement
6. Maureen Carroll, English 2nd floor

Thank you for making UTSA a safer place to work and study!

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

Another tragedy. It happened again, this time at an Ohio High School. The student was sitting in the school’s cafeteria, by himself, when he pulled out a handgun and pointed it at a group of fellow students who were sitting at another table in front of him. He opened fire striking several students. One was pronounced dead almost right away and two more were dead several hours later.

Trying to find a cause for what happened, many people went to his Facebook page. He had posted several messages including a dark poem. More importantly, the night before the shooting, the student Tweeted that he was going to bring a gun to school. Many students saw the post. No one took the threat seriously. If they had, maybe the three students who were killed would have lived to graduate high school, go to college, get married and have kids.

I don’t know why this happened. I don’t know if anyone ever will. Was the student depressed? Were there warning signs? Earlier this month, the New York Times posted a story about a research study that was conducted on a college campus that showed about 30 percent of Facebook posts could be classified as indications of clinical depression. The story specifically said “...specialists in adolescent medicine and mental health experts say that dark postings should not be hastily dismissed because they can serve as signs of depression and an early warning system for timely intervention...”.

How many of you see Facebook posts or Tweets from your friends that concern you? I would hope that if you see a post that says someone is bringing a gun to class tomorrow, you would do the right thing and bring it to our attention. I hope you wouldn’t have the “I don’t want to get anyone in trouble” mindset. It would take about one minute of your time to hopefully prevent a tragedy.

We at the UTSA Police are ready to act when notified. But we can’t do it without you. If you see something that concerns you, call our emergency number at 458-4911. If you want to report, but stay anonymous, visit the Silent Witness page on our website. Talk to someone... a professor, a counselor... someone. Don’t keep it to yourself. We are here to help.
Runner Beat

Schedule of Events For March 2012

**Tuesday Mar. 6, 2012**
SD350: Personal Safety
10:00 am at Univ. Heights
Find out how to reduce your risks of becoming a victim of crime both on and off campus.

**Wednesday Mar. 7, 2012**
Safe Spring Break Info Fair
Begins 10:00 am at Sombrilla
Learn how to have a fun and safe spring break this year. Various groups will provide safety information to student travelers.

**Thursday Mar. 8, 2012**
Coffee with the Cops
Begins 6:00 am at UC Starbucks
The UTSAPD Crime Prevention Unit will be at the JPL Starbucks. Come have some coffee with us!

**Mar. 12 to 16, 2012**
Spring Break
Have a fun and safe spring break!

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 210.458.6247 (Monday to Friday; 8am to 5pm).

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. **NOTE—Departments, please promptly turn in any lost and found items you may have so we can return them to their owners in a timely fashion.**

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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<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>I Pods &amp; MP3s</td>
<td>Big &amp; small</td>
<td>(9) Charges, CDs/DVDs, (4) Headphones</td>
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<td>Various Brands &amp; Colors</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Books/Binders/Folders/Spirals</td>
<td>Various Titles &amp; Brands</td>
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Crime Report for the Month of February 2012

The below is a summary of the crimes that occurred as of February 28. For more information, go to www.utsa.edu/utsapd and click on Crime Stats.

**Thefts = 22**
**Alcohol Arrests = 24**

**Burglary of Vehicle = 3**
**Drug Arrests = 9**

**Assaults = 2**
**DUI/DUI Arrests = 16**

**Theft of Motor Vehicle = 0**
**Other Crimes = 20**

Choose your ride.
Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.

UTSA Office of Business Affairs: Your Partner for Successful Solutions!
March means it’s time for Spring Break. Like the rest of you I’m looking forward to a break. But, we’re not to Spring Break yet and this past few days it seems as if my classes, work, internship, and personal life seem to have a common thread running through them... fear. Fear? Yeah! Fear! What is fear motivating you to do? What is fear keeping you from doing? How is fear affecting your life? This seems to be an ever-present theme in all parts of life. Here’s an example. Growing up I was always extremely fearful about presenting or speaking in front of people. I would stay home sick from school, because I had presentations or had to talk in front of class. That all changed in high school. I had a friend help me be more comfortable with myself. I also took a speech class. The teacher was excellent and I learned a lot. These two events helped me get past my fear. Now I love teaching, and getting in front of people. However, had I not taken the chance with the speech class I might never have had the opportunity to change my perception of getting in front of people to speak. Of course I have other fears. I am afraid regularly. All cops are afraid at one time or another. I have made many calls where I was afraid for various reasons. I’ve learned to use my fear to motivate me. Now, I teach tactics and I teach officers to get through that fear, and be able to use fear in a positive and healthy way. How does this all relate to you? Well, what fear do you have? What fear is keeping you from something, or motivating you to cope in unhealthy ways? People hurt others; call them names; hurt themselves through alcohol, drugs, unsafe sexual practices; cutting; or through a variety of other unhealthy strategies. What motivated you to binge drink the last time you did? Are you partying to party or are you partying, because you’re trying to cover up a bad relationship, insecurity, or some other fear? Now is the time to make a choice about how you’re going to handle your fear. Are you going to keep on a rocky path that can lead to more problems or are you going to get help so you can be everything you want and know you can be? I have learned positive coping strategies because of fear. If I can do it, you can do it. I had help and so should you. Talk to someone you trust, a friend or family member, a trusted religious leader, or a counselor. Whatever you do, know that we all have fears and we all make mistakes. However, we all have a choice. If you decide you want to talk to someone the UTSA Counseling office has locations at the Main Campus at RWC 1.810 or at 210-458-4140. Plus, there is an office called the Community Family Life Center at DTC in DB 3.304 or call 210-458-2055. All of these places have resources for you. Take advantage of them, so you can use your fear to motivate you in positive healthy ways.

I wanted to thank Captain Sonego and Lt. English for their compliments from UT Sys.

Chief Barrera Says:
The University of Texas at San Antonio Police Department One UTSA Circle San Antonio, Texas 78249 | 210-458-4342 210-458-7603 fax
UTSAPD is a CALEA and IACLEA accredited law enforcement agency
Please visit our website at www.utsa.edu/utsapd

RAINFUN’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 “butt 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.

How Fear Motivates You to Change Your Life (by Sgt. Joe LoBrutto)

Rain and I are currently working on his Master’s degree in Community Counseling.

The Bottom Line by Chief Steve Barrera

Spring break 2012 is upon us now and we would like everyone to have a safe and enjoyable time during your break. We have a saying here at the police department that we are “protecting your future today”. Our goal as your police department is to make our campus as safe as possible while you focus on your studies and completing your education. We also care about your safety not only while on campus but off as well and want to make sure you return safely and refreshed for the remainder of the spring semester. Just remember to be cognizant of your safety while on break and avoid dangerous situations. I know there are still many exams to get through, but hang in there and give it your best. Before you know it another semester is behind you and you are one step closer to your goal of graduating. It may not seem like it while you are going through it but the saying “time flies” is true. Be safe and see you soon.