The Dangers of Texting and Driving

other use of the device, besides dialing telephone numbers or talking to another person, while operating a moving motor vehicle. The ordinance also will prohibit drivers from using cell phones for anything besides calling even when stopped at red lights.

San Antonio is the third major city in the state to adopt such a ban. El Paso and Austin already prohibit the act, as do several smaller cities across Texas. Across the country, 30 states have prohibitions against texting while driving. According to the Texas Department of Transportation, cell phone use was listed as a contributing factor in more than 3,000 crashes in 2008. About 17 percent of those crashes resulted in serious injury or death.

In a recent American Automobile Association of Texas study, more than 1,700 drivers on their cell phones caused crashes in the last five years. In 2009, drivers on cell phones caused nearly 700 crashes in North Texas last year. Four of the wrecks were deadly.

SAPD officers will be issuing warnings -- rather than citations -- for the first 90 days the new ordinance is in effect. After that, drivers can be fined up to $200 for violations. Because the UTSA police issues San Antonio Municipal Court appearance citations, SAPD officers will also have the authority to enforce this city ordinance. However, both UTSA and SAPD currently have no plans for targeted enforcement. Rather, officers will act on violations just as they do for other laws such as speeding and not wearing seat-belts. The implementation of the city ordinance will be coupled with an aggressive public awareness campaign that will make its way into schools and drivers education courses in San Antonio.

Safety tips to avoid texting and driving include: Don't be tempted. If you have to text, pull off the road safely and stop. Recognize that text messaging can be a habit. If you think you will still be tempted to text and drive, put your phone somewhere you can't reach it. Take control of your cell phone, don't let it control you.

References: NBC-DVX, KSAT, MySA, Fox 29, Colorado AAA

Be Smart, Be Safe: Holiday Travel Safety Tips

The holidays are almost here and you know what that means -- the kickoff to holiday travel is about to begin. An estimated 33 million people nationwide will be traveling over this long holiday season, with Thanksgiving one of the most traveled holidays of the year.

To help you prepare for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s travel ahead, we have listed some helpful holiday travel tips to help get you to and from your family gatherings safely.

Check road conditions and weather reports:
Check the latest weather to find out the condition of the roads you will be traveling on.

Winter driving essentials:
It is a good idea to pack an emergency travel kit, which should include a flashlight, blankets, booster cables, flares, emergency triangles and a first aid kit.

Winter checkup:
Make sure to have a certified mechanic check your vehicle before you head out on the road.

Buckle up:
Play it safe this holiday season and buckle up -- it's not only the law; it could help save your life.

Allow for extra time:
The heaviest holiday travel traffic occurs during the days immediately before and after Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day.

Watch your speed:
Magazine Subscription Scams—What to Watch Out For

One of the many scams that victimize college students every year is the "magazine subscription scam". College aged "salespeople" go to the residence areas and try to sell magazine subscriptions to win "a scholarship for school." They seem nice enough, but they tell you a pack of lies to rip you off. If students refuse to buy a magazine, they’re often asked to fill out a survey and pick their top three magazines. After doing so, some students have found they've been billed for over a hundred dollars in magazine charges. An impulse purchase could leave you with years of monthly payments for magazines you may not want or could buy for less elsewhere.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, unscrupulous salespeople trick consumers into paying hundreds of dollars for multi-year subscriptions. The FTC says consumers should question approaches that feature:

Door-to-door sales: Beware of emotional appeals by someone selling door-to-door. For example, the student selling magazine subscriptions using the appeal that your sale will help him/her get a college scholarship or other such rewards. If you buy from a door-to-door salesperson in your home, and the purchase is more than $25, you're protected under the FTC's Cooling-Off Rule. Unless it’s a kid you know who lives down the street or you can’t say no to someone face-to-face, don’t open the door. Never let any door to door salesperson inside your house. They could steal something of value — like your checkbook. Sadly, it happens all the time.

Phony invoices or renewal notices: The notices come in your mail and look like bills. If you already subscribe to the magazine, check the subscription expiration date. Also, check the notice carefully to see if it came from your publisher. If you’re not a subscriber and you didn’t order any magazines, you’re not obligated to pay.

A reminder: SOLICITORS ARE NEVER ALLOWED on university property without proper authorization by the Office of Business Affairs. If you are unsure if a solicitor on campus is authorized, call the university police at 210.458.4242. We will send an officer to the location to determine if the solicitor has the proper permission from the university. If you think you’ve been involved in a magazine subscription scam, contact the university police. You can also file a complaint or get information on consumer issues by visiting ftc.gov.

Employee Kudos: Officer Bill Rowsey received an EXCELLENT on a Customer Satisfaction Survey from an ill student: “One of the most professional officers I have seen.” Also, a great job done by Tiffany Schmidt (BCEM), Rebecca Gomez (Records) and Gene Garcia (Accreditation) for their work as the UTSA PD representatives in the 2010 State Employee Charitable Campaign. Way to go!

Officer Piepho’s Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

Cell Phones and Driving

National Safety Council recently published that it estimates at least 28% of all traffic crashes – or at least 1.6 million crashes each year – are caused by drivers using cell phones and texting. NSC estimates that 1.4 million crashes each year are caused by drivers using cell phones and a minimum of 200,000 additional crashes each year are caused by drivers who are texting. Your life is worth more than a text message!

UTSA Police Department Awarded IACLEA Accreditation for Campus Law Enforcement

The UTSA Police Department has received accreditation from the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA). A rare achievement, UTSA now has dual professional accreditation. In 2008, the police department received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

“We are very proud of our police department and their continuing display of professionalism and excellence,” said Kerry Kennedy, UTSA vice president for business affairs. “Of the 14 UT System police departments, only three are dually accredited by IACLEA and CALEA -- UTSA, UT Austin and the UT Health Science Center at Houston.”

"Please join me in congratulating Police Chief Steve Barrera and the men and women of the UTSA Police Department for achieving IACLEA accreditation," said Mike Tacker, UT System interim Director of Police. "This accreditation recognizes the highest professional standards for campus law enforcement and protective services in fulfilling our mission to protect students, faculty, staff and visitors to UT System institutions."

IACLEA standards include issues that relate specifically to college campuses such as maintenance and operation of an emergency notification system. The standards set by IACLEA promote professionalism in performing the duties of a police officer and enhance the overall safety of students, faculty, staff and visitors.

The CALEA award is a prized recognition of public safety professional excellence. Many CALEA standards are geared toward community policing, which aid in better relationships between police and the community. CALEA standards pertain to all police organizations including municipal, county, state and university departments. Issues addressed include arrest, search-and-seizure and pursuit procedures.

Encompassing police agency best practices, IACLEA and CALEA accreditation benefits include:

Professional benchmarks for measuring policies and practices
Demonstrated high quality of services
Documented procedures that give clear guidance to staff Enhanced recruitment and retention of qualified staff
Staff members trained and functioning according to established policies and procedures
Boost to institutional pride and employee morale
Periodic professional review of operations, administration and services

UTSAPD Receives IACLEA Accreditation

From left to right: Capt. Kiley, Gene Garcia, Chief Barrera, Lt. Hudson & Asst. Chief Pena
Safety Highlights Donovan Agans (Director of BCEM)

We are creatures of habit. We complete everyday tasks such as going to work and attending school habitually. We often take the same routes from home to work, and from class or work to our cars. What would you do if a man made event or natural disaster were to occur that would impede your ability to continue your routine? How would you cope, strive and survive? How would you accomplish the same things in a different manner? The answer is to prepare now. You can protect yourself and others around you during disaster events by creating an emergency preparedness plan. A preparedness plan will lay out where, when and how you will contact family and friends as well as prepare you for emergency situations. It is important that you share your plan with others.

Your plan can be a simple checklist of items that you may need should your living or work community be adversely effected. Your plans should be updated periodically to suit your needs. Use the UTSA Personal Preparedness checklist to ensure you are prepared should an emergency occur:

- I have signed up for R911 through ASAP and programmed the University Police Department phone number in my cell phone
- I have written all my emergency contact phone numbers down on a piece of paper in the event my cell phone does not work or I cannot use it
- I have devised a plan with family and friends in the event of an emergency. My family and friends know how to contact me or each other should I be unable to call
- I know two ways to exit every building I enter should the primary exits be blocked
- I know where I should seek shelter at home and at work in the event of severe weather or events that prevent me from exiting the building

Corporal Joseph LoBrutto received the Chief’s Commendation Award from Chief Barrera for his outstanding work and dedication in planning, coordinating and ensuring that the joint exercise with the San Antonio Police Department that was held on August 6, 2010 was a successful one for both departments. Outstanding work Corporal LoBrutto! Photo Right: Cpl. LoBrutto (left) receives the Chief’s Commendation Award from Chief Barerra (right).

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

For this month’s edition of the RunnerBeat, I’d like to address a growing trend. That trend is online harassment. This type of crime can go by several other names like cyber-bullying, cyber-harassment or cyber-stalking. Cyber-bullying can succinctly be defined as “when the Internet, cell phones or other devices are used to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person”. Cyber-bullies may conceal victims’ personal information (e.g. real name, address, or workplace/schools) at websites or forums or may pose as the identity of a victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them. Some cyber-bullies may also send threatening and harassing emails and instant messages to the victims, while others post rumors or gossip and instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target. Recent statistics show that a person can begin cyber-bullying as early as the 3rd or 4th grade. When perpetrated by adults toward adults cyber-bullying becomes cyber-stalking or cyber-harassment. Some common tactics of a cyber-stalker would be to, among other things, threaten a victim’s reputation or safety. The statistics also show that many victims of this type of crime don’t know where to turn.

If you think you’ve been a victim of cyber-bullying, here are some things you can do. First, contact us at the UTSAPD for guidance on how to handle the situation. You can also contact the Office of Student Judicial Affairs or the UTSA Counseling Services.

I strongly urge anyone who feels they are being harassed online to reach out as soon as possible so that we, as a university, can put an end to it.
Schedule of Events For November 2010

Thursday Nov. 11, 2010
Coffee with the Cops
6:30 pm at outside UC Starbucks
The UTSAPD Crime Prevention Unit will be at the UC Starbucks. Come have some coffee with us!

Friday Nov. 12, 2010
Self Defense with Dr. Clark
 Begins 2pm at Convo Center
Dr. James Clark of the Kinesiology Department will have a self defense demonstration.

Thursday Nov. 18, 2010
Drug 101 Class
Begins 7pm at University Oaks Apartment Phase III Clubhouse
Free. Learn how drugs can affect your college experience in a negative way.

Monday Nov. 22, 2010
UTSA Night at the SA Spurs
Begins 7:30 pm at AT&T Center
Join the UTSA community when the Spurs take on the Orlando Magic. UTSAPD Honor Guard will present the colors.

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).

Crime Report for the Month of October 2010

The below is a summary of the crimes that occurred in October as of October 30. For more information, go to www.utsa.edu/utsapd and click on Crime Stats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Category</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thefts</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Alcohol Arrests = 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary of Vehicle</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Drug Arrests = 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assaults</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DWI Arrests = 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft of Motor Vehicle</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Other Crimes = 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Watch for Cold and Flu Season  By Cpl. Elizabeth Carter and Ofc. Melody Piepho

Yes it is that time of year again, “Flu Season”. Although we can’t remove ourselves from coming in contact with viruses, there are ways we can minimize the spread of diseases. First if you are sick, have a fever and flu-like symptoms stay at home. If you are ill it is suggested that you stay out of airplanes and public transportation. Also practicing good health habits is especially important. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends “that you take everyday actions to stay healthy this flu season”.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands with soap and water. Alcohol based hand rubs are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you are sick and limit contact with others.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces like bedside tables, bathroom surfaces, children’s toys, doorknobs, light switches, and telephones.
- Regular flu vaccines are now available and everyone should get vaccinated but those who need it most include:
  - Adults 50 and older.
  - All children age 6 months to 18 years.
  - Pregnant women.
  - People of any age with chronic health problems like asthma, heart disease or a weakened immune system.
  - Health workers.
  - Caregivers to the high-risk, including babies younger than 6 months.

It is generally healthier, safer and less expensive to prevent diseases than to battle the disease itself. So stay healthy this flu season and take simple preventative measures to keep yourself and others healthy.

UTSA community members can receive flu shots at UTSA Student Health Services on the Main and Downtown campuses. The cost is $12 for students and $18 for faculty and staff. For more information, call SHS at 210.458.4142.

References: articles.uns.com and Clorox.com

Chief Barrera Says:
Guard Cheyenne Alvarado- Received an Appreciation Letter from Chief Barrera for providing information which led to the identification and apprehension of two Burglary of Vehicle suspects. The victim was able to receive most of his valuables back as well. Great work Guard Alvarado!

The Bottom Line by Chief Steve Barrera

Each year we hear of more and more traffic accidents on our City streets where someone is seriously injured or killed. Each year there are more people killed in traffic accidents than in acts of violence. Our goal is to keep everyone safe on campus and that includes monitoring traffic and reminding pedestrians and drivers to be careful. We have quite a bit of traffic on our campus since many people commute to school here and many students that live here also have a vehicle. Even though our speed limit is 20 MPH on campus streets and 10 MPH in the parking lots someone can still be seriously injured in an accident. We ask that everyone follow the speed limits and drive defensively to avoid accidents and wear your seatbelt. We also want to remind drivers to give the right of way to pedestrians, yield to other vehicles when necessary, and don’t cut in front of vehicles. Also, allow enough space between your vehicle and those in front of you to avoid a rear end collision.

One of the ways in which we try to keep our campus safe is by conducting traffic enforcement. We want to minimize the risk of injury or accident by reminding everyone of our traffic rules and encouraging voluntary compliance. One of those traffic laws is the ban on cell phone use and texting that many states and local communities are now enacting. Here in Texas there is a law not allowing cell phone use in school crossing zones and another law that prohibits drivers under age 17 with restricted licenses from using cell phones and text-messaging devices.

Locally, San Antonio recently passed an ordinance that prohibits using a “hand-held mobile communication device to send, read or write a text message, view pictures or written text, whether transmitted by Internet or other electronic means, engage in gaming or any other use of the device, besides dialing telephone numbers or talking to another person, while operating a moving motor vehicle.”

The UTSA police department will also enforce this ordinance on campus. Only warnings will be given for the first 90 days and thereafter a normal citation may be issued, if necessary. Educational campaigns our now letting everyone know about the texting ban throughout the city and we want everyone to also know this same law applies to our campus as well. Let’s all do our part by developing safe driving habits and not texting while driving on campus or anywhere for that matter.

UTSA celebrated its third annual National Night Out on Tuesday October 5, 2010 at the UC III Paseo. The UTSAPD, Judicial Affairs, Campus Rec., Housing and Residential Life, UTSA Bookstore, Frost Bank, UTSA Athletics and many other departments were essential in the planning of National Night Out. Coach Coker and Chief Barrera began the event with introductory words and the UTSA Cheerleaders and Dance Team performed. It is estimated about 1000 people attended. Photo: Cpl. Weber at UTSA’s National Night Out.

It’s cold and flu season!
Flu vaccine available at Student Health Services
Photo: Google Images