

The University of
Texas at San
Antonio

POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Runner Beat

Protecting Your Future... Today

A Campus Safety Newsletter from the University Police Department



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Tips for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars and thieves a chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, but chiefly because it's an opportune time for crime. Here are some tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

AT HOME

Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your apartment.

Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.

If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so the house or apartment appears to be occupied.

Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with an identification number and record new serial numbers. The UTSA Police Department can engrave your items for free.

Use only fire resistant ornaments on a holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good working order.

Avoid leaving boxes from purchases (especially TV's, computers, etc.) out on the curb for trash pickup.

IF YOU'RE SHOPPING

Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.

Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.

HOLIDAY PARTY SAFETY

Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.

Serve something to eat before serving alcoholic beverages.

Obey the law! The legal drinking age in Texas is 21 and furnishing alcohol to a minor is an arrestable offense!



Use only fire retardant decorations on trees. (Photo from Microsoft Clip Art)

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.

Last but not least, don't let holiday stress get the best of your holiday spirit. Make time to get together with family, friends, and neighbors. And think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who is less fortunate or lonely. Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody—except criminals.

References: *National Crime Prevention Council & www.thecenter.ucla.edu/parmid.html*

UTSA-PD Receives Accreditation from CALEA References: CALEA website & UTSA Today

The UTSA Police Department was awarded accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies during its fall conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma on December 6, 2008. During the conference, review committee hearings were held as the final step in the process of law enforcement agencies seeking accreditation from CALEA. UTSA-PD began this process in 2005 with an initial application to CALEA.

The CALEA accreditation process required a dedicated team to complete a comprehensive review and update of all department policies, procedures and operations. CALEA assessors were

here September 27 through October 1 for our on-site assessment which included a review of UTSA-PD files, General Orders and a "static display" of equipment, interviews with PD employees, ride-a-longs with officers and facilities inspection. The UTSA-PD Accreditation Section consists of Sgt. Robert Hudson as the Accreditation Manager and Guard Gene Garcia as the assistant. Officers Melody Piepho and Mark Smith were temporarily reassigned from their normal duties for a period of several months to help complete the process.

Formed in 1979, CALEA was created through the combined efforts of four major law enforce-

ment executive associations to develop a set of standards that meet professionally recognized criteria for excellence in management and service delivery. CALEA accreditation is consistent with UTSA's strategic plan toward becoming a premier research institution. UTSA-PD joins more than 746 accredited law enforcement agencies in the United States and the only agency in Bexar County to be accredited.



Accreditation hearing in Oklahoma (Chief Hernandez in center) Photo Ofc. Piepho



UTSA-PD want you to be informed of depression issues.

Photo from <http://news-info.worst.edu/tips/page/normal/198.html>

Congratulations to ITC Guard Frederick Mound who has retired with 23 years of service to UTSAPD.

Depression Issues Faced by College Students

It is common for students at the end of a semester to be "stressed out" about final exams and term papers coupled with the stress of the upcoming holidays with a little homesickness thrown in. But when "the blues" last for weeks, or interferes with academic or social functioning, it may be clinical depression. Clinical depression is a common, frequently unrecognized illness that can be effectively treated.

Clinical depression can affect your body, mood, thoughts, and behavior. It can change your eating habits, how you feel and think about things, your ability to work and study, and how you interact with people. Clinical depression is not a passing mood, a sign of personal weakness or a condition that can be

willed away. Clinically depressed people cannot "pull themselves together" and get better. Depression can be successfully treated by a mental health professional. With the right treatment, most who seek help get better. And many people begin to feel better in just a few weeks.

Symptoms of Major Depression

- Sadness or anxiety
- Decreased energy & fatigue
- Loss of interest in activities
- Sleep disturbances
- Appetite and weight changes
- Feelings of hopelessness, guilt
- Thoughts of death or suicide
- Difficulty concentrating
- Irritability or excessive crying

The first step in defeating depression is recognizing it. It's

normal to have some signs of depression some of the time. But five or more symptoms for two weeks or longer, or noticeable changes in usual functioning, are all factors that should be evaluated by a mental health professional.

UTSA Counseling Services provides a confidential atmosphere where students may discuss concerns that are important in their lives. Counseling Services offers students a variety of professional services. Most services are pre-paid through your student service fee and are available to students who are currently attending class.

Call the Counseling Center at 458.4140 or visit them at the Rec Wellnes Center 1.810.

Reference: www.campusblues.com/depression.asp & the UTSA Counseling Center website

Employee Kudos: On October 11, 2008 while on patrol at the Downtown Campus, Ofc. Diaz observed two vehicles "drag racing". After initiating a traffic stop he discovered that both drivers were DWI. Both were arrested by Ofc. Diaz. His actions most certainly saved the lives of the drivers and well as any bystanders that night. **Way to go!**

UTSA Police Department Sponsors Holiday Food Drive Reference: UTSA Today

The UTSA Police Department will host a holiday food drive through Dec. 12, 2008. Non-perishable food items for the San Antonio Food Bank will be collected at 22 locations on the UTSA Tri-campuses.

The food drive is an excellent way for UTSA community members to show concern for the less fortunate during the holidays and to provide meals that will mean so much. Individual donations can be dropped off or items can be collected in each office and brought to the selected locations at each campus.

"We are asking everyone to help those who are less fortunate

at Thanksgiving and beyond," said Cpl. Joseph Lobritto, UTSA police officer. "Many families struggle to provide for their families and wish they could do more."

Donated items cannot be in glass containers. The San Antonio Food Bank lists these items as the most needed:

- peanut butter
- cereal
- chili
- canned stews and soups
- canned tuna and luncheon meats
- beans (bags or cans)
- full meals in a can or box
- rice
- pop-top foods

macaroni and cheese dinners

A partial listing of drop off locations include:

1604 Campus
UTSA Police Department lobby
Facility Services Annex
University Oaks clubhouses
Chaparral City Center
John Peace Library Building second floor (outside Security Office)
Business Services Annex
Office of Student Activities (UC III)

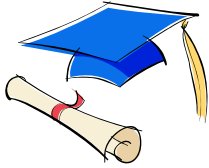
Downtown Campus
Frio Street Building computer lab
Enrollment Services
Student Activity Center (Durango Building first floor)
Institute of Texas Cultures
Security Desk



UTSA-PD Food Drive will help out the San Antonio Food Bank



UTSA-PD wants you to update your Reverse 911 information. (Photo from Reverse 911)



The UTSA Police Department wishes to congratulate all of the Fall 2008 graduates! Good luck in your future endeavors!



"Safety Highlights" by Donovan Agans (Director BCEM)

Update Reverse 911 contact info

Reverse 911, the UTSA emergency notification system, is active at the UTSA Tri-campuses to keep students faculty and staff informed in case of an emergency. Those who register for the notification system will be contacted by telephone, text message and e-mail if an emergency arises. Messages will include pertinent emergency information and protective actions.

All UTSA telephones (458 numbers) and UTSA e-mail addresses have been uploaded into the Reverse 911 system. To ensure accuracy, UTSA students must verify personal contact information in the system each semester; faculty and staff must

verify the information each September.

Registration and information verification can be done in two ways:

- Log on to ASAP (<https://asap.utsa.edu/>), scroll to "Personal Information" and select "Reverse 911 Emergency Alert Contacts." (If problems occur during registration, e-mail the UTSA Police Department at utsapd@utsa.edu.)

- Or download a Reverse 911 form at the Office of Business Continuity and Emergency Management (<http://129.115.102.107/oep/reverse911.htm>) Web site and submit it. Forms are available in English and Spanish.

- Registrants are immediately active in the system.

UTSA supervisors should print copies of the Reverse 911 registration forms for employees who do not have access to a computer.

"We are pleased that many members of the UTSA community have already registered for Reverse 911," said Donovan Agans, UTSA director of business continuity and emergency management. "We encourage UTSA community members to register if they have not done so, because a 100-percent participation rate can greatly enhance campus safety. This system will be very helpful because it will be used to directly contact students and employees, rather than their parents or spouses."

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

The other day, I stopped at the Taco Cabana to pick up some lunch. While I was waiting, I got the usual looks from some of the students and staff wondering who this guy was that was carrying a badge and a gun. The young lady working behind the counter struck up a conversation with me and asked if I worked on campus. I told her that I worked for the UTSAPD and supervised the Criminal Investigations Section. She told me that she had an interest in law enforcement and asked what it takes to become a detective. I have had this question asked many times, so let me explain.

First, depending on the size of

the agency you work for, it usually takes several years of working as a street officer before you can even become eligible. This is where you obtain the basic skills that you will use throughout your career. While working as a patrol officer, you also need to display certain qualities that will come to the attention of your supervisor. These qualities should include: professionalism, knowledge and application of rules and laws, and attitude/cooperation with your fellow officers and supervisors. You must also display good communication skills, good report writing skills, and of course, common sense and good judgment.

Once you have "put in your time" and excelled as a street officer, you usually have to take a test and go before a board before being selected as a detective. Once you do, you will have to master such traits as time management, self motivation and situational reasoning.

I have to be honest with you and say that detective work is not for everyone. Some officers have a hard time adjusting from working patrol to an office environment. One of my jobs as a supervisor is to ease in this transition and evaluate performance. Luckily, I think we have one of the best investigative teams of any department. It takes hard work to get there.

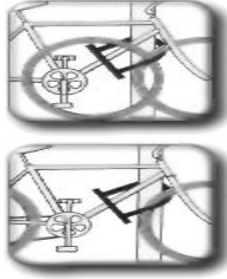
UTSA-PD welcomes our newest team members:

Police Officer: Arnaldo Cano

Guards: Fred M. Casillas, John J. Engstrom, Richard L. Hodges, Jr., Kirk Henry, William L. Sanders, James J. Lander, Clinton Villarreal, Kathleen B. Walter, Priscilla Ann Trevino, Savino Suniga, Jr.

Communications Officer: Sylvia Garcia

WELCOME



Proper methods to secure a bike

Photo from www.menomonee-falls.org

Chief Hernandez says: Congratulations to our patrol Sergeants who successfully completed their NIMS Incident Command System training. Great work!



UTSA Police Chief David Hernandez

Bike Theft Prevention Tips

One of the best ways to get around campus is on a bike. Bicycling to class takes less time than trying to find that "perfect" parking spot, is healthy for you and good for the environment. Unfortunately, bicycles are very easy to steal because most owners leave the bike unlocked or improperly lock the bike. Understanding the most common types of theft can help you protect your bike and lock it with confidence.

Keep your bicycle locked at all times, and use a strong lock. Use a case-hardened U-type

lock. Weak or inexpensive locks will not deter a thief. Make sure to fill up as much space inside the "U" as possible.

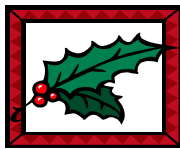
If you notice someone "hanging around" a bicycle rack, report this to UTSA-PD. Call 210.458.4911 if you notice suspicious people anywhere on campus.

Engrave your bicycle with your driver's license number. Your driver's license number is a recognizable identifier that a police department would be able to use to try to get the bicycle back to you.

Record your bicycle's make, model and serial number and store this information in a safe place. In case it is stolen, you will have this information available.

Protect your bike by registering it. Registering your bike greatly aids in its return to you if it is recovered by the police. Options include the National Bike Registry at www.nationalbikeregistry.com or registering your bike with the UTSA-PD. Call 210.877.4006 for more information.

References: <http://www.sfbike.org/?theft> & <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/dps/crimprev/bikelthef.shtml>



Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and Best Wishes for a Joyful New Year!
From the UTSA Police Department

Chief's Corner By Chief David Hernandez

I Don't Like Police Officers

Being a Police Officer is not as easy as some believe it to be. Most choose this profession because they want to help others, they want to have a positive impact on someone else's life. Shortly after completing their training, they quickly realize that in an effort to help others, they are going to have a negative impact on someone else. Helping others often means stopping someone else from committing a crime against them or their property. Sometimes helping others means taking action against them to prevent behavior that is not only illegal, but is harmful to themselves.

I recall stopping a vehicle which was driving erratically to find a mother of two young children, clearly under the influence of alcohol. Helping her meant taking action to stop her from hurting other drivers, hurting her young children in the vehicle,

and hurting herself. Those are the types of situation where your commitment to helping others forces you to do things that you take no pleasure in. Arresting a mother of two children and placing them in the custody of family services is a sad experience to say the least. Sure I was glad that I could stop her before she caused harm to others or herself, but sad to hear the cry of those children as they were separated from their mother. This was but one of many arrests that would be difficult to feel good about.

Arresting people for violating the law often leaves you as the bad guy, the person who was unreasonable or unfair. You are expected to know it all, have all the answers, and miraculously know who is being honest and who is lying. If you aren't perfect it is because you are unfair and picking on someone. It is what often leads to people saying, "I don't like Police Officers.." or comments that I can't include

here. These comments can often be hurtful and can lead to an officer questioning how he is helping others, if they can't appreciate the challenges of his position. Let's face it, everyone wants to be liked.

Fortunately, there are those of you who even when arrested for a violation can come back and say the officer was fair, he was just doing his job. Those who can appreciate how difficult that job is and those who are grateful to know that when they call during an emergency a police officer will come. Not only will the officer come, but he or she will put themselves at risk to ensure that you are safe. They will do this because they want to help, it is what being a Police Officer is all about. I hope that whatever the reason for your encounter with an officer, that you will remember that the majority truly want to help you and yes, like most people we want to be liked!