



**UTSA**

The University of Texas at San Antonio™  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

# RUNNER BEAT

ISSUE—112

A campus safety newsletter for the UTSA community

JANUARY 2016

## National Stalking Awareness Month

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affected 7.5 million victims in one year. The theme—“Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It.”—challenges the nation to fight this dangerous crime by learning more about it. Stalking is a crime in all 50 states, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia, yet many victims and criminal justice professionals underestimate its seriousness and impact. In one of five cases, stalkers use weapons to harm or threaten victims, and stalking is one of the significant risk factors for femicide (homicide of women) in abusive relationships. Victims suffer anxiety, social dysfunction, and severe depression at much higher rates than the general population, and many lose time from work or have to move as a result of their victimization. Stalking is difficult to recognize, investigate, and prosecute. Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime but a series of acts, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary, or animal abuse, as well as unwanted cards, calls, gifts, or visits. One in four victims reports that the stalker uses technology, such as computers, global positioning system devices, or hidden cameras, to track the

*In just 1 year,  
7.5 million people are stalked  
in the United States.*

- Stalking Resource Center

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victim's daily activities. Stalkers fit no standard psychological profile, and many stalkers follow their victims from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes. Communities

**NATIONAL STALKING  
AWARENESS MONTH**  
JANUARY 2016

**StalkingAwarenessMonth.org**

that understand stalking, however, can support victims and combat the crime. The UTSA Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit will offer education, safety plans, and fliers to promote awareness and public education about stalking during the annual observance. For additional resources to help promote National Stalking Awareness Month, please visit <http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org> and [www.ovw.usdoj.gov](http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov).

# Stalking Safety Plan

© National Center for Victims of Crime

## Stalking Safety Plan - What is it?

A safety plan is a combination of suggestions, plans, and responses created to help victims reduce their risk of harm. It is a tool designed in response to the victim's specific situation that evaluates what the victim is currently experiencing, incorporates the pattern of previous behavior, and examines options that will positively impact the victim's safety. In a safety plan, the factors that are causing or contributing to the risk of harm to the victim and her/his loved ones are identified and interventions are developed.

## Advocates and Stalking Safety Planning

While victims can make safety plans on

their own, it is often helpful to enlist the assistance of trained professionals. These professionals, including advocates and law enforcement officers, can help a victim determine which options will best enhance their safety and will work to devise a safety plan to address each unique situation and circumstance. Victim advocates can be found in local domestic violence and rape crisis programs, as well as in victim assistance programs in local prosecutors' offices and in some law enforcement agencies.

## Stalking Safety Plans - What to Include

When safety planning, victims can consider what is known about the stalker, the people

# Stalking Safety Plan Cont'd.

who might help, how to improve safety in one's environment, and what to do in case of an emergency. The average stalking case lasts approximately two years, therefore safety planning must begin when the victim first identifies the stalking behavior and continue throughout the duration of the case. Safety plans need to be re-evaluated and updated continuously as the stalker's behavior, the victim's routines, and access to services and support changes.

Below are suggestions to consider when developing a stalking safety plan. This is not an exhaustive list. In a safety plan, any recommended strategy must focus on what the victim feels will work in her best interest at any given point in time.

## Documentation of Stalking and Reporting to Police

Victims are encouraged to keep a log of all stalking behaviors including e-mails and phone messages. The log, as well as any gifts or letters the stalker sends the victim, can be collected and used as evidence.

The evidence will help prove what has been going on if the victim decides to report the stalking to the police or apply for a protective order. Sample Stalking Log

## Rely on Trusted People

Many victims have found simple ways to make the stalking affect them less. They may ask someone else to pick up and sort

their mail, get a second phone number given only to trusted people, or have people at work or school screen phone calls or inform the police if the stalker shows up. Relying on trusted friends and family is important for victims of stalking to help keep victims safer and also reduce the isolation and feelings of desperation that stalking victims may experience.

## Technology Safety Planning

Stalkers use technology to assist them in stalking their victims in various ways. It is important to consider how victims may be harmed by stalkers' use of technology.

Stalkers use the Internet to contact or post things about the victim on message board or discussion forums. They may also verbally attack or threaten victims in chat rooms. Some stalkers will post threatening or personal information about the victim - including the victim's full name and address. Often stalkers will e-mail the victim, or fill their in-box with spam and have been known to send viruses or other harmful programs to victims' computers. These threatening messages should be saved, especially if the victim is considering contacting the police with the case.

If stalkers have access to a victim's computer, they can track them by looking at the history or websites visited on the computer. Also, stalkers have been known to

## Stalking Safety Plan Cont'd.

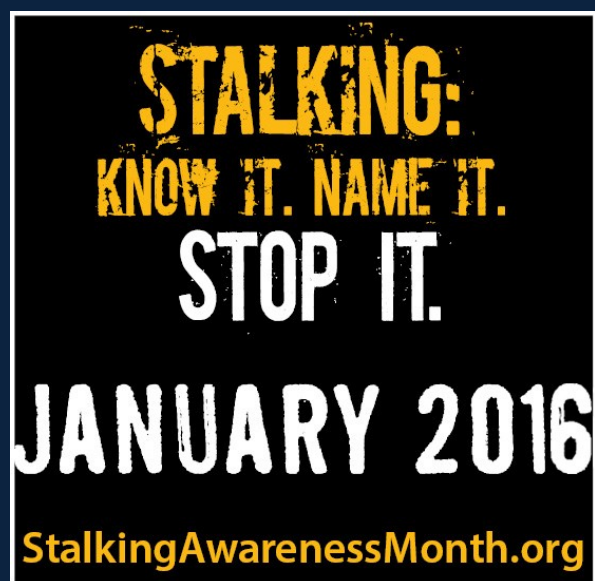
install Spyware software on computers (sometimes sent through e-mail) that sends them a copy of every keystroke made, including passwords, websites visited, and e-mails sent. Spyware is very difficult to detect and a victim will likely not know she has it on her computer. If a victim believes s/he has a Spyware program on her/his computer, it is important the victim talk to a trained advocate.

Stalkers use cell phones enabled with Global Positioning System (GPS) to track victims. GPS technology can also be used to track or follow victims by placing them in the victim's car and will be able to tell everywhere the car travels. When safety planning with a victim about technology issues, ask a victim if her stalker has ever had access to her phone or computer. If so, it may be important to stop using the phone or computer, or only use it in a manner that will not give the stalker any information about the victim's location.

It is also important for victims of stalking to remain diligent about protecting their personal information that could be saved in databases. Businesses, for example, collect personal information about people, including addresses, phone numbers, last names, etc. This information can sometimes be accessed and exploited by stalkers. One stalking victim's ex-boyfriend

learned of her new address by "innocently" inquiring at the local oil change station if she had recently brought in their car for an oil change. Because that business had her information stored, they gave the stalker the address the victim had wanted to keep unknown to the stalker. Victims are encouraged to consider who might have their personal information. They should instruct businesses to not give out any personal information. In many instances, victims can ask that their account be password protected. This password should be one only known to the victim and no information should be released or discussed until the password has been verified.

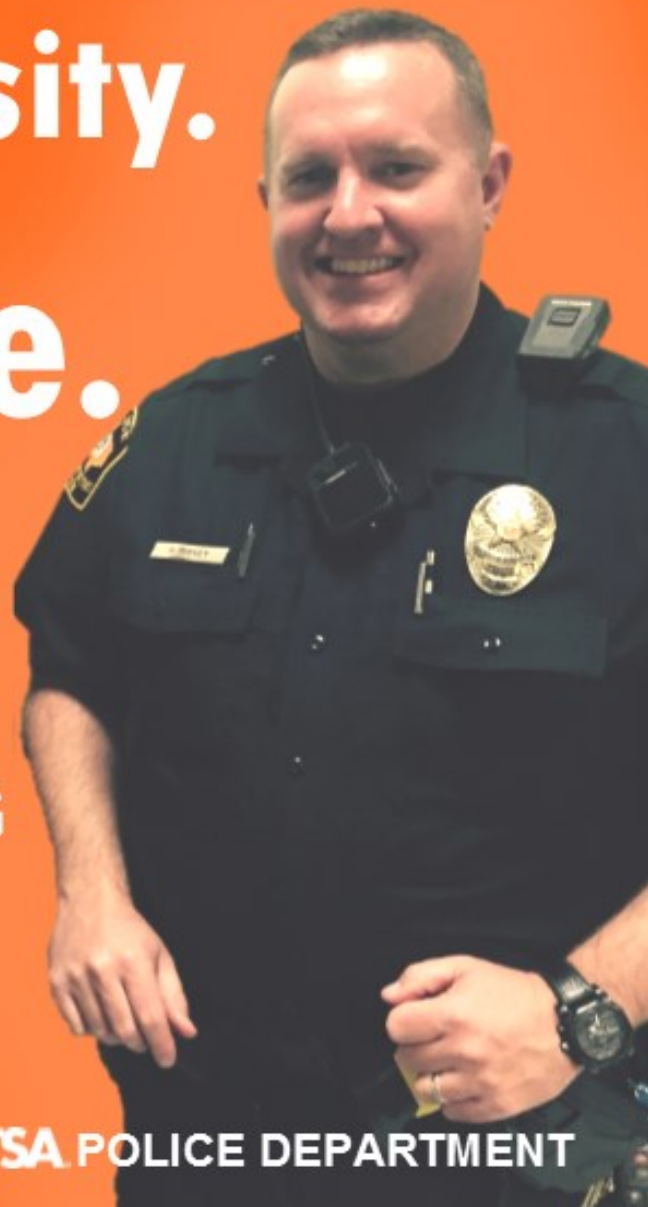
Although no safety plan guarantees safety, such plans are valuable and important tools to keep victims safer, document incidents that happen with the perpetrator, make surroundings more secure, and identify people who can help.



# LOST & FOUND

QTY	Item	Description
5	Bag/Backpacks	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
13	Binders/Folders	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
20	Books	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
11	Calculators	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
39	Cell phone & Laptop Chargers	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
4	Cell phones	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
7	Earbuds/Earphones	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
13	Jewelry & Watches	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
23	Keys	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
16	Misc. Electronics	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
13	Misc. Items	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
24	Rx glasses & Sunglasses	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
5	Umbrellas	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
56	USB/Memory Storage	Various Brands, Colors & Styles
3	Check	Aaron Raby, Corina Smith, Hailey Smith
2	Texas Driver License	Leslie C. Medrano, Shivani R.Patel
2	Texas ID card	Jacqueline E. Granizo, Joseph Campos
1	Ohio Driver License	Joceline Quiceno
1	California Driver License	Sarah Josephine Mekebri
4	Wells Fargo Cards	S. Gonzalez, J. Staley, A. Thomas, K. Ybarra
2	CHASE Card	Emmanuel Quintanilla, Cody C. Garza
2	Bank of America	Andreina Quiceno, Ariel J. Tapscott
2	Security Service Federal Credit Union	Johnathan Gomez, Carlos Bedolla
2	Frost Bank	Larissa Rios Cruzs, Sai S. Vedula
2	Capital One	C. Martinez, G. El Haber Esquivel
1	USAA	Victoria Flores
2	RBFCU	V. Cardenas, Y. Hinojosa
1	IBC	Allysha Farmer
1	American Express	Raj M. Patel
1	Money Network	Rodolfo Rodriguez
1	Sams Club	Rebekah Washington
1	Discover Card	Shravya Gaddam
1	Secura Key Prox Card	no name
1	Elite Visa	no name

**It's your university.  
Keep it safe.**



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**UTSA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**UTSA POLICE IS HIRING**

**[www.utsajobs.com](http://www.utsajobs.com)**

**Our department is seeking men and women from all backgrounds who want to be members of a professional law enforcement agency that serves a diverse and dynamic community.**

# CRIME REPORT—DECEMBER 2015

The below is a summary of the crimes that occurred as of last month. For more information, go to [www.utsa.edu/utsapd](http://www.utsa.edu/utsapd) and click on *Crime Stats*.

<b>Thefts</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Alcohol Arrests</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Burglary of Vehicle</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Drug Arrests</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Assaults</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>DWI/DUI Arrests</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Theft of Motor Vehicle</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Other Crimes</b>	<b>4</b>

## CHIEF'S CORNER

*Steve Barrera, Chief of Police*

If you see something, say something. It sounds simple enough and could possibly prevent a serious crime from occurring on our campus. Recent national and international criminal and terrorist events have created the need for increased security and vigilance. Our main goal is to make our campus the safest campus around. Without the assistance of an alert public we cannot be as effective as possible in keeping our campus safe. This requires team work and I cannot emphasize enough the important role that all students, faculty and staff play in preventing crime on our campus. Being around campus all the time most of us become familiar with our UTSA facilities and staff. This familiarity also allows us to know when something is not right or suspicious. We always encourage everyone to trust their instincts, and if it does not feel right it probably is not right. It's always better to err on the side of caution and if you observe suspicious activity, immediately call the UTSA Police Department at 210-458-4911. We're all in this together and the more alert we are the better off we are in preventing crime or a major incident. If something looks out of place or suspicious it never hurts to have us check it out. It may be an easily explainable situation or may result in the prevention of a crime, which is our ultimate goal. So if you see something, say something! ***Be safe.***



## Contact Us

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