



## **Campus safety and security**

### **Overview of UC safety and security**

The safety and security of students, faculty, staff and visitors is the number one priority for the University of California. Recent tragic shooting incidents have forever altered the nation's perception and raised awareness of campus safety and security at the university. In the last few years, UC has implemented a broad range of policies and programs to prevent potential violent acts and address security needs at the campuses. University police have been actively preparing and training for potential "active shooter" events, campuswide educational and awareness programs have been developed, and a number of physical security measures and safeguards, such as surveillance systems and emergency call boxes, have been put in place. All campuses have evaluated and are enhancing their emergency mass notification system capabilities and systems to include text messaging and other advanced methods.

A host of challenges remain to securing UC campuses, which have sprawling park-like grounds containing hundreds of individual easily accessible buildings. However, the university remains committed to aggressively applying a broad range of tools to preventing and preparing for campus violence.

### **Violence prevention**

The university believes the key to preventing violent acts on its campuses is to identify potentially problematic individuals, either students or staff or affiliates, and employ sound intervention strategies before any incidents occur. In addition:

- Campuses are addressing student mental health needs.
- Multidisciplinary behavioral threat management teams have been formed. Those teams regularly address issues and behavior that may pose a threat to the campus community.
- Comprehensive workplace violence training and education programs have been instituted for staff, supervisors, faculty and students. These programs typically cover prevention, early detection and intervention, conflict resolution/mediation, supervisory response, policies and procedures, and anger/stress management.
- Complaint resolution, employee and student assistance, counseling, and sexual harassment prevention training have also been established.

### **Safeguards and security**

In addition to UC police resources, campuses rely on a number of campuswide and building-specific physical security measures and systems.

Campuses employ a number of tools in the area of security including:

- Building access controls.
- Staff and student ID badges.
- Surveillance systems, panic and alarm systems, and emergency call boxes.
- Designs for high-risk offices that incorporate multiple safety features and prevent unrestricted access.

All campuses require extra security staffing at public or special events. Campuses have some means to limit access to the campus if necessary, and some campuses can even electronically lock-down specific campus buildings. In addition, campuses have implemented personal safety, security and crime prevention training and awareness programs for their communities.

### **Preparedness and response**

UC police departments are comprised of sworn police officers and they are highly trained law enforcement agencies that have been actively preparing and training to rapidly respond to an “active shooter” incident since well before the recent tragic shootings. UCPD relies on:

- Specialized tactical firearms and active shooter scenario officer training.
- Simulations and exercises, often in conjunction with other local law enforcement and public safety agencies.
- Specific procedures and protocols to guide campus police officers and dispatchers.
- Mutual aid agreements and interoperable radio communications capability to ensure a fully coordinated response with their local law enforcement partners.
- Campuswide educational and awareness programs and procedures on how to specifically respond to an active shooter have been established.
- Emergency plans for quickly evacuating campuses.

The issue of emergency mass notification to the campus community has been widely examined and heavily debated in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings. Every UC campus currently has some type of mass notification system in place. Most commonly these include:

- Broadcast email and voicemail messages to campus accounts.
- Web page banners or links.
- Emergency hotlines or call-in numbers, and mobile public address systems in public safety vehicles.
- Most UC campuses have vendor-based automated multiplatform systems that integrate not only basic voicemail and email, but also wireless text messaging to reach the diverse campus community.

Campuses are also starting to explore the use of popular Web-based social networking sites (Facebook, MySpace, etc.) to reach the student population in an emergency.

### **Background**

In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, UC formed the systemwide Safety, Security and Anti-Terrorism Committee to assess the status of the university’s overall security, exposure to physical threats, and its ability to respond to a wide range of natural hazards, technological hazards, human-caused events and terrorist acts. This committee oversaw “all-hazards” hazard vulnerability assessments at all UC campuses. These assessments included workplace violence and “active shooter” scenarios similar to Virginia Tech (both of which were determined to be in the top 10 list of systemwide threats). The committee’s work also led to the issuance of the new Presidential Policy on Safeguards, Security and Emergency Management (2006):

<http://www.ucop.edu/facil/pd/emergprep/ssempolicy.pdf>

In 2004, UC voluntarily adopted the National Preparedness Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs as the basis for its annual systemwide emergency preparedness program benchmarking survey and status report. Each individual campus and medical center completes a metrics-based

program performance measurement self-assessment and submits that information along with a narrative executive summary to UCOP for compilation into the annual report:

[http://www.ucop.edu/facil/pd/documents/em\\_annual\\_rpt.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/facil/pd/documents/em_annual_rpt.pdf)

UC President Robert C. Dynes formed the Campus Security Task Force in May 2007 to study how campuses can enhance their security, notification processes, mental health services and general preparedness.

(<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/regmeet/mar08/e2.pdf>)

UCOP Emergency Management Web site:

<http://www.ucop.edu/facil/pd/emergprep/welcome.html>