HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

To all faculty, staff and students the following Holiday Safety Tips are compiled to help you prepare and be careful and aware of your surroundings as you enjoy the holiday shopping and preparations during this upcoming holiday season.

Avoid driving alone or at night

Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.

If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.

Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.

Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice where you parked.

Never leave your vehicle unoccupied with the motor running, or with children inside.

Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in your car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.

Be sure to locate your keys and have them ready prior to getting to your car.

Keep a secured hold of your personal handbag, purse, and or anything else you may be carrying.

Be aware of your surroundings.

Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.

Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

### Automated Teller Machine (ATM)

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a police station, mall, or well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

While you’re out standing in line for the stores to open at dawn or relaxing in your dorm room, apartment or even at your parents’ home late trying to scoop up every last minute deal. Keep in mind these basic holiday safety tips to protect yourself while shopping for that perfect gift.
Shopping this time of year should be filled with happiness, joy, excitement and the time to feel blessed and to remember those that have filled your heart. It is also a time to help the many families and children in need of our support. So as you shop from the comfort of your dorm room, apartment, or your parents’ home remember the important of being safe. Especially, at times when you are out in the open waiting in those long lines hoping and praying to capture that special deal of the day. This is also a good time to **control your social status**: Though you might be tempted to broadcast to the world about how excited you are for your holiday travels or about what store you are shopping at it is important to resist the urge to broadcast to the whole world that you are not going to be home. It is so common for us to post our every move on social media but this is definitely that time of year to show restraint. Remember this is a dangerous thing to share to the world, because it leaves your property vulnerable to those wanting to gain access into your dorm room, apartment or your parents’ home.

Keep the following Holiday safety tips in mind:

Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.

- **Dress casually and comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry.**
- **Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.** Always carry your Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- **Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.**

**Install the NOVA SAFE APP this holiday season**

**Nova Safe**

Nova Safe is a free smartphone app designed to help the Villanova University Department of Public Safety respond to emergency situations quickly and with more information available to them than ever before.

Your safety is important and we hope that you use Nova Safe as a supplement to the other things you do every day to stay safe here at Villanova such as locking your door and keeping personal belongings secure. Please keep in mind though that Nova Safe is limited by the technology that supports it, such as cell phone functionality, internet availability, cellular coverage, and GPS positioning technology. At times when these services are unavailable, Nova Safe may not work as you expect it to, and when dealing with an issue as important as safety, you should not be completely reliant on any one system or product.

**Nova Safe does not replace Nova Alert.** Nova Alert is a mass notification system. Nova Safe is an interactive communications system with the Department of Public Safety. **Know how to contact Villanova Public Safety**

- Know the emergency telephone number for your campus Public Safety Department by dialing 610-519-4444 or dial 911 for immediate police response.
- Keep the emergency phone numbers near your phones (stickers, magnets, etc.).
- Program emergency phones numbers into your personal cell phone.
• Learn where the campus emergency telephones (Blue Light Telephones) are located on campus and learn how to use them.
• Learn where other emergency telephones are located throughout campus (chemistry labs, woodworking areas, etc.).
• Ensure that you are subscribed to the campus mass notification system on campus.

**Remember NOVA SAFE APP is a communication tool with Public Safety. Control your social status:** Though you might be tempted to broadcast to the world about how excited you are for your holiday travels or Black Friday shopping sprees, resist the urge to broadcast to the whole world that you are not going to be home. Many people cannot seem to wait to let everyone on Facebook or Twitter know that they are about to leave and this is a dangerous thing to share.

In the residence halls
• Always lock your door; even when you’re sleeping or just going down the hall.
• Do not allow strangers to enter your room or your complex. Do not open your door unless you can identify the person seeking entry.
• Do not let unknown individuals “tailgate”; ask who they are visiting and offer to call Public Safety.
• Do not prop or open any exterior doors to allow unescorted visitors into the residence hall (pizza delivery, friends, etc.). Report lost or stolen residence hall keys immediately to your residence hall staff.
• Report any malfunctioning locks, doors or windows to your residence life staff.
• Do not leave your keys lying around in your room when you are not in the room.
• Do not leave messages on your door about when you will be returning to your room.
• Report any suspicious persons or activities (including solicitors) in or near your residence hall to your residence hall staff and Public Safety or Police.

MAY THIS BE THE BEST HOLIDAY SEASON EVER! BE SAFE, BE CHEERFUL, BE OBSERVANT, AND CELEBRATE THIS SEASON WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY BY HELPING THOSE AROUND YOU BE SAFE AND SECURE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.
VILLANOVA PUBLIC SAFETY
&
EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Villanova University Department of Public Safety Emergency Number
610-519-4444
Health Services Building
610-519-4070
Radnor Police Department
610-688-0503
Lower Merion Police Department
610-642-4200

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