February 13, 2017

Dear International Student,

When you are new in a place, it's a good idea to take more precautions than usual until you are familiar with your new environment.

When you have lived in a place for a while, it’s easy to become complacent about one’s safety. For these reasons, we would like to remind you about ways you can keep yourself safe in different environments.

We are also sending you some special safety tips for pedestrians and bicyclists in the winter because several UB international students have been hit by cars while walking or bicycling.

Please read the safety tips below carefully and completely, and follow them!

Sincerely,
Ellen Dussourd

SPECIAL WINTER SAFETY TIPS

These tips are especially for bicyclists and pedestrians. If you walk or ride your bicycle to or around campus, please pay special attention.

1) Because it stays dark later in the morning and becomes dark earlier in the evening during the winter, please be aware that drivers may have difficulty seeing you, especially if you wear dark clothing. To increase your safety when crossing or walking along the street, consider wearing light clothing that reflects light (e.g. reflective clothing). Also, do not cross the street until the cars coming towards you have stopped.

2) Because streets are often snowy or icy in the winter, drivers may not be able to stop their cars quickly. To ensure that you don’t get hit by a car, do not cross the street until the cars coming towards you have stopped. NEVER walk on highway entrance or exit ramps.

3) Streets and sidewalks are sometimes so icy that it is very difficult to remain standing—even if you have boots with good tread. To be sure that you don’t fall, by a pair of YakTrax or Stabilicers (or similar brand).

4) If you are driving to campus in the winter, please be especially careful about the overpass over Millersport Highway near UB’s North Campus. If can be very snowy on the side going down to Flint Road. Since one does not realize it until often too late, accidents can easily occur there.
SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

Ensure that you and your belongings are safe in UB residence halls

1) Lock the door to your room when you leave your room (even for a short time) or go to bed.

2) Do not prop open locked residence hall doors. If you see a propped door, close it.

3) Be observant of any strangers loitering or checking doors in your building. Note their description and call University Police (645-2222) immediately.

Ensure that your off-campus home is not an easy target

1) Always keep exterior doors and windows locked—even in the summer.

2) Leave some lights on in your home when you go out.

3) If strangers telephone or come to your door, do not admit that you are alone. And never let strangers into your home.

4) Never open your front door unless you know who is knocking.

5) Close your blinds at night so people can’t see you or your possessions (e.g. TV, laptop, iPad, etc.).

6) Understand that thieves often look for potential targets by observing houses and residents. If you live near UB’s South Campus, change your patterns (e.g. schedule, walking route) so it will be harder for thieves to identify a good time to rob your house.

7) Keep a list of serial numbers of your electronics. In this way, if your house is broken into, the police can identify your stolen property and arrest the thief.

SAFETY TIPS FOR WALKERS

Don't be an easy target!

1) Try never to walk alone, even during the day. Avoid walking alone to your car or residence hall after dark. There is safety in numbers so always walk with a friend or, better yet, a group of friends.

2) Be alert to your surroundings. Don’t wear headphones or earbuds. Pay attention to other people on the street in such a way that they know you are watching them.

4) Don’t avert your eyes when you encounter people who make you nervous. Look directly at them, paying attention to their eyes, nose, mouth, ears, etc. In this way, you won’t be an easy victim because they will know that you can describe them to the police and recognize them in a police line-up.

5) Be vigilant. When walking off-campus, cross the street if a person who is approaching you makes you nervous. Look in store windows to see who is behind you and what they are doing. When you pass by someone, look back to make sure they aren’t following you.

6) When walking off-campus, walk close to the street curb. Avoid bushes, doorways and parked cars, where attackers can hide. When you take a corner, don’t cut the corner; stay close to the street.

7) Keep your hands out of your pockets so you can use them, if you need them.

8) Keep “give up” items (e.g. 10 one-dollar bills) in your pocket and your valuables (e.g. large amounts of money, credit cards, passport) well hidden (e.g. in your shoes, in a money belt under your clothing, etc.).

9) Keep your car key, house key and cell phone where you can reach for them. Don’t keep them in your backpack. If you do, you will lose time reaching for them when you need them (e.g. to enter your house) and lose everything if your backpack is stolen.

10) Keep your keys and cell phone separate from your “give up” items. Consider carrying a fake wallet to give up to muggers.

11) When walking off-campus, don’t give money to beggars. They might be drug addicts or criminals and might mug you once you take out your wallet to give money to them.

12) Avoid walking to your off-campus apartment near UB’s South Campus after dark. If you live within a 1.5-mile radius of UB’s South Campus (as well as at Kensington Village, Collegiate Village and Campus Manor), you should use the UB Safety Shuttle instead. It runs seven nights per week until 2:00 a.m. when UB is open (ie. not during certain holidays and school breaks). Van #1 starts at 6:00 p.m. and Van #2 starts at 8:00 p.m. Shuttle pick-up stops are at the Health Sciences Library, Parker Hall, Goodyear Loop and Main Circle. Shuttle pick-up times are approximately every thirty minutes. Note: If you need a pick-up at another location, you must make a reservation. Requests for pick-up at another location must be made before 4:00 p.m. on the day of the request (Monday – Friday) at https://www.facebook.com/subboard. For more information, please visit https://subboard.com/healthed.html.

13) If someone tries to mug or attack you off campus, yell “Call 911” or “Call the police”. If you are mugged (or someone tries to mug you), call 911 immediately. Don’t wait until you get
home. If you don’t have a way to call, pound on a neighbor’s door and ask them to make the call. This will help the police arrest the mugger, thus protecting you and your friends by getting the mugger off the streets.

14) If someone stops you to ask you for help, call 911 for them. Don’t try to help them. Their emergency may not be real.

15) **If someone tries to grab you, don’t stop moving. Squirm and flail your arms as much as you can to get away. Spit in their face, scratch them, etc.**