



The University of Southern Mississippi

University Communication

A MESSAGE FROM The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department February 20, 2008

This is a university-wide communication to update the students, faculty and staff about matters of interest to the Southern Miss family.

RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY

The University of Southern Mississippi has detailed plans in place to deal with emergencies and crises that may occur on campus.

Emergency Communication

In the event that the campus community must be notified of an emergency or crisis on campus, the following mechanisms could be used:

- Notices on the Southern Miss Web home page
- E-mail alerts to all faculty, staff, and students
- Phone messaging system
- Voice messaging utilizing alert siren
- Media alerts sent to local TV and radio outlets

Coming Soon

- A text messaging system will be ready for opt-in enrollment to begin within 45 days.
- Radio driven remote public address warning system will be functional in all residence halls, The Cochran Student Center and Payne Recreation Center within 45 days.
- Funds in the amount of \$200,000 have been dedicated to creating a campus-wide public address system to be completed by fall term 2008.

University Safety and Emergency Services

The University of Southern Miss Police Department (UPD) with, 28 full time sworn officers is a fully recognized and accredited law enforcement agency by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

- The UPD receives ongoing specialized training including “active shooter” scenario management.
- UPD in Hattiesburg has local agreements with the Hattiesburg Police Department, Hattiesburg Fire/Hazardous Material Agency, Forrest County Sheriff’s Office, Lamar County Sheriff’s Office, Petal Police Department, Forrest General Hospital and the Forrest County Emergency Operations

Center. These agencies meet regularly and share training around crisis scenarios. All of these agencies are prepared to respond to a call for assistance from the University Police.

- The University of Southern Mississippi has a Critical Incident Response Team that includes representatives from the University Police, student counseling center, Dean of Students Office, Residence Life, Academic Affairs, University Health Services and other areas who meet regularly to plan, assess and prepare for campus emergency and critical incident response.
- The University Counseling Center has established a “C.A.R.E. System” - Campus Action Referral and Evaluation service – designed to improve communication on campus regarding student mental health issues, facilitate rapid and effective referral of students with mental health issues, and attempt to reduce the students’ risk of harm to self or others.

What you can do

Faculty, staff, students and others in the community should contact the University Police Department or the Dean of Students office with any information regarding behaviors of a person on campus that might be viewed as cause for concern.

If you are notified of or involved in an emergency or crisis, stay calm, assess the situation and be prepared to take safety precautions based on your personal situation.

Here are tips to follow:

- Stay away from the area of the emergency or crisis.
- Find a safe place and stay there until you are notified that the emergency is over.
- If you are directly affected by the emergency, call 911 or UPD as soon as it is safe to do so. Provide as much information as you can and stay on the phone until told to hang up.
Hattiesburg 601.266.4986
Gulf Coast 228.865.4537
- Alert others if you can without endangering yourself.
- Evacuate the area by a safe route if possible.
- If the emergency is an active threat and you are unable to evacuate the area, attempt to seek an area of safe refuge.
- If you must seek refuge, secure doors and windows as quickly as possible and barricade as many items between you and the threat.
- Do not attempt to make contact with the individual(s) responsible for the threat unless no other option is available.
- Once in a secure location, do not open the door for anyone but the police.

While we hope that our emergency plans will not have to be put into action, The University of Southern Mississippi with the leadership of our Police Department and Student Affairs division, is prepared to respond to any situation that may arise.

The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department
Hattiesburg 601.266.4986 Gulf Coast 228.865.4537