



Your Family. Your Friends. Your Community.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holiday season is approaching and the Blacksburg Police Department wants you and your property to stay safe. Please read and apply these safety tips. Happy Holidays!

Off-Campus Residents:

- Set lights on automatic timers, or leave an indoor and outdoor light on.
- Leave blinds and curtains in normal positions.
- Stop your mail delivery.
- Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your property, and leave a key with a trusted neighbor in case of emergency. If possible, have a neighbor park a car in your driveway or parking area occasionally.
- Do not leave keys in mailboxes, in planters, or under doormats.
- Do not leave notes on doors, or messages on answering machines, indicating that you are away.
- Place valuables that you cannot take with you out of sight in your room/apartment/home and unplug all appliances before you leave.
- Make sure any property outside of your apartment is secured and/or locked up (i.e. bicycles)
- Lock doors and windows securely.

Residents Staying Over the Holidays:

- Travel in well-lit and populated areas, and walk with others whenever possible.
- Do not display cash, credit cards or electronic devices in open areas.
- While walking, do not text, talk on the phone, or use ear buds. These activities are distracting and will isolate you from your environment.
- Always trust your instincts. If you feel insecure or in danger, or are suspicious of any activity, seek help.
- Be alert to any suspicious persons around the residence halls, bike racks, or parking lots.
- Program the Blacksburg Police's non-emergency number in your phone (540-961-1150).
- Call the police immediately to report any unusual activity.

Blacksburg Police Department
200 Clay Street S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540-961-1150

Welcome Back Hokies!

*The Blacksburg Police Department wants you to have a safe school year.
Please read below for important information and reminders.*

- Significant construction is going on in the Town and many roads are being impacted. University City Blvd. is closed to through traffic from Broce Drive to Lynn Drive. Residents will still have driveway access but there will be no through traffic. Blacksburg Transit is operating on detours (please see www.blacksburg.gov/BTDetours for more information). Also, at the intersection of Prices Fork Rd./University City Blvd. construction for a new building may cause periodic traffic problems. Rt. 460/Southgate Dr. will be impacted for the Southgate Connector project. Temporary road and Huckleberry trail detours will occur for short durations. Please be advised that increased enforcement to control speed will be conducted in these areas and drivers should seek alternative routes. See www.blacksburg.gov under the "Latest News" section for more road closures or updates.
- Complaints came in at the end of the Spring 2015 semester and over the summer about ride-sharing companies driver's inappropriately speaking to passengers, taking pictures/videos of intoxicated passengers, and contacting passengers after providing rides. Please report any suspicious activity to the police immediately so these problems can be dealt with.
- No Hokie™ Left Behind will be promoted again for the 2015-2016 school year. BPD investigated multiple reports of students accepting rides from people they didn't know. Remember, GO WITH FRIENDS, STAY WITH FRIENDS, and LEAVE WITH FRIENDS. Don't find yourself in a situation that is uncomfortable and dangerous. Make plans ahead of time to get home safely and always leave your residence with your phone fully charged! If you need help please call a friend, the non-emergency number (540-961-1150) or if it's an emergency dial 911.
- There are numerous versions of scams going around both by phone and email. Do not send money to anyone if you have not confirmed their identity. Do not send money through third party means. If you are unsure if you are being scammed, call the Blacksburg Police Department at 540-961-1150.
- Remember, when you leave your apartment lock your doors! Don't assume while you are gone people won't check to see if your apartment is unlocked. Don't let thieves do their Christmas shopping while you are enjoying one of the six home football games this fall. And remember, don't invite people that you don't know to your apartment! Also, always lock your vehicle and secure valuables out of sight.



Blacksburg Police Department
200 Clay Street S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Non-emergency: 540-961-1150
Emergency: 911

Welcome Back Students . . .

The Blacksburg Police Department and Virginia Tech Police Department want you to have a safe and successful fall semester.

Did you know . . .

- Did you know that the first conviction of possession of alcohol underage is punishable as a class 1 misdemeanor with possible license suspension and fines?
- Did you know you can be arrested for being intoxicated in public on private property, such as in a bar?
- Did you know providing alcohol to a person under 21 years of age is punishable as a class 1 misdemeanor with possible jail time, fines, and license suspension?
- Did you know a DUI conviction carries heavy fines, mandatory jail time, and mandatory ignition interlock device on your vehicle?
- Did you know first offense possession of marijuana can be punishable as a misdemeanor with possible jail time and fines?
- Did you know that having sex with a person that is too incapacitated to consent is rape, which is a felony and punishable with a minimum of 5 years to life in prison?
- Did you know that using a fake identification is a class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by jail time and a fine? Further, signing public documents using a false ID is a class 4 felony.
- Did you know it is a felony to possess prescription medications that aren't prescribed for you, including a single Adderall pill?
- Did you know criminal charges are published with a picture and are accessible by internet to anyone and everyone?
- **Do you know how you are going to explain your poor decisions to future employers?**

Be a good neighbor . . .

- Do you know your neighbors, and your friends' neighbors, and that their schedules are likely very different from yours?
 - Did you know most citizen complaints in neighborhoods involve noise violations and parking issues?
 - Did you know if you are charged with a noise violation the first offense is a \$300 fine, with the second offense \$600 and third offense \$1000?
 - Did you know if you receive a parking violation, the minimum cost will be \$25, and if the vehicle must be towed the minimum cost will be \$150.
 - Parking is not permitted within 15 feet of a driveway or fire hydrant, nor is parking allowed in the front yard of a residence.
 - Did you know that police departments notify property management companies of residents' behavior, including at apartments and houses?
 - Did you know that urinating in public is more than a health violation, it is a criminal charge?
 - Did you know it is illegal to ride a bicycle on the sidewalk in downtown Blacksburg?
 - Did you know when riding a bicycle on the roadway it is considered a vehicle and the rider must obey all traffic laws and can be cited for traffic violations just as in a vehicle?
-

- Did you know you are required to self-report all arrests to Virginia Tech.?
- Did you know when you get in trouble in town, VT will receive a conduct referral that could cause you serious consequences at school?
- Meet your neighbors and make a conscious effort to be a responsible resident.

Phone Numbers & Websites for your Phone . . .

- Blacksburg Police Dept.
 - 540-961-1150 Non-Emergency
 - 540-961-1171 Lost/Found Property
- Virginia Tech Police Dept. Non-Emergency
 - 540-231-6411
- Blacksburg Alert
 - <http://blacksburg.gov>
- VT Alert
 - <http://www.alerts.vt.edu/>
- Blacksburg Transit – BT4U
 - <http://bt4u.org/>
- Area Taxi Cabs providing service in town:
 - Hootie Ride: (540) 449-DRIV
 - Text-A-Cab: (540) 239-9274
 - Affordable Cab Co : (540) 239-9266
- Area Towing Services:
 - All Call: (540) 443-9952
 - Auto Repair Specialists: (540) 953-3345
 - Campus Exxon: (540) 951-7398
 - Price's Towing: (540) 552-5041
 - Valley Towing: (540) 951-4304

Consider programming the above numbers into your phone so you will be prepared 😊

Planning a party? Follow these helpful hints to keep it safe and fun for everyone . . .

BLACKSBURG POLICE
SAFE PARTY PLANNING

The Blacksburg Police Department is encouraging Virginia Tech students who plan to have parties this semester to create and implement safe party plans. The primary purpose of these plans is to make your party events a safe place for both male and female attendees.

These plans should, at a minimum, include the following:

Crowd and Noise Control

Plan ahead to develop a guest list in order to avoid an overcrowded party, or, use a door monitor to count persons as they arrive and deny entry once your maximum number of persons is reached.

It is important to know who is at your party. Keep in mind that the guy that attends your party in September may be the guy who burglarizes your house/apartment in December.

Give your neighbors a "heads-up" about your event and provide them with your cell phone number in the event of crowd or noise becoming a nuisance.

Town of Blacksburg noise ordinance prohibits noise that travels across a property boundary, through a wall into another apartment, or that can be heard 50 feet from its source (13-103 Town Code)

Ensure that you have an adequate number of sober persons to monitor your party. Sober persons must be ready to speak with the police if they are called to your party.

If your party begins to get out of control, call the police for help in shutting it down.

Alcohol Awareness

Have a plan in place to avoid serving alcohol to attendees under the age of 21. Have non-alcoholic drinks on hand as well as food.

Limit or eliminate games that encourage binge drinking (Pong, etc).

Develop a theme for your event that takes the focus off "just alcohol."

Sober attendees should monitor and identify persons who have had enough, persons too young to drink, and games getting out of control.

Sober attendees should routinely check the outside perimeter of the event location for intoxicated persons urinating, vomiting, or passed out.

Make sure your guests have a safe way to get home. Your number of designated drivers should be proportionate to your crowd size.

Safety for Female Attendees

Your parties should have a reputation for being a safe place for females to attend.

Take steps to educate your friends helping with your party on how to create a safe environment.

Provide information to females on who to go to if they need help.

Encourage all persons planning the party to be positive bystanders and to intervene to prevent sexual assaults.

Encourage female attendees to stay in pairs while at your party.

Sober attendees should monitor the party for the following unacceptable practices:

- Males trying to encourage females to drink more than they should.
- Males trying to separate a female from her friend or from the party.
- Males taking very intoxicated females to private areas of the house or apartment.
- Ensure that females who are intoxicated have a safe way to get home.

(Remember: If she is too drunk to say "no" and you take advantage of that, it's rape)

Ensure that females who are intoxicated do not leave with persons they don't know.

Ensure females do not leave drinks unattended.

Set boundaries inside your house or apartment where only residents are allowed to be during the party.

Make sure to have an emergency plan in the event of fire, medical emergencies, and physical altercations.
