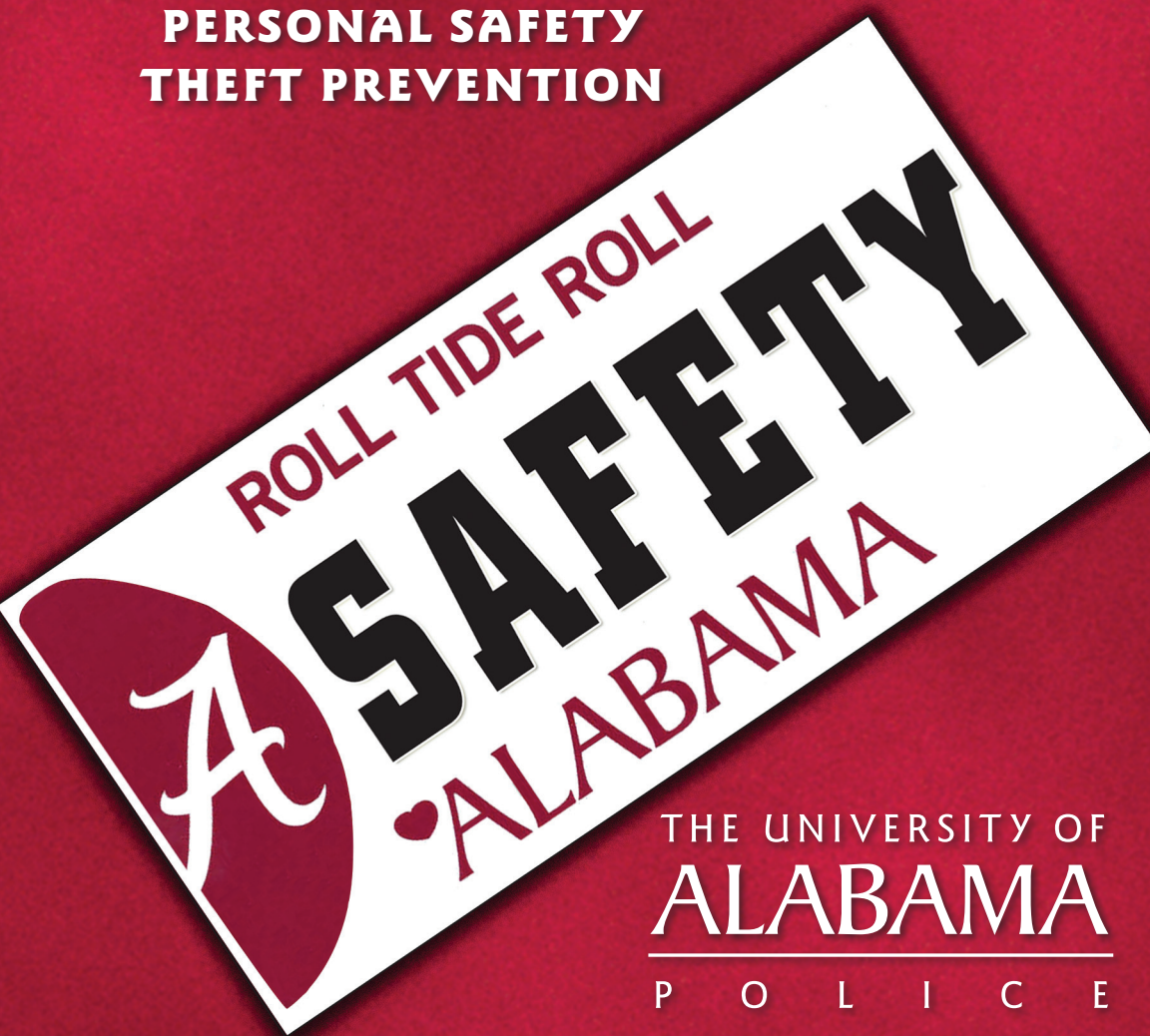


# *Safer Living Guide*

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## *Gadsden Center*

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
PERSONAL SAFETY  
THEFT PREVENTION**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**  
P O L I C E

*A Reference Guide to Safety and Contact Information*

# Education, Environment, Enforcement

*A comprehensive approach to student health and safety*

One of our highest priorities at The University of Alabama is the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff. To achieve this goal, we invest significant resources in a variety of activities and initiatives designed to increase security as well as our students' ability to make responsible decisions. We foster a positive relationship with local law enforcement agencies to enhance a safe, secure and healthy community.

*Working together  
for a safer community!*



# SAFER LIVING GUIDE

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# UNIVERSITY POLICE

**WELCOME** to the University of Alabama. One of our highest priorities is the safety and well-being of all members of our community – students, faculty, staff, and visitors – including those on the Gadsden Center campus. The University of Alabama invests significant resources in a variety of activities and initiatives designed to help increase the security of our community members and to help increase our students' ability to make responsible decisions that enhance their well-being. Creating this positive environment on our campuses and the surrounding business and residential neighborhoods takes a team approach involving all community members.

The University of Alabama Police Department works diligently to play their part on the team in Gadsden by partnering with other University officials, City of Gadsden emergency service agencies (police, fire/EMS and emergency management), and local community members to promote a safe environment in which to live, learn, and work. The University of Alabama Police Department strives each day to ensure the students, faculty, staff and visitors that comprise the entire University of Alabama family – whether in Tuscaloosa or Gadsden - have access to the highest quality law enforcement and safety services. Although you may not see UAPD officers on the Gadsden campus, know that we are still proactively emphasizing community education, utilizing advanced technologies to promote safety and deliver relevant safety information, and working to build strong local partnerships.

Another vital member on this team is the University's Office of Emergency Preparedness. Emergency Preparedness, one of the five departments that fall within the Public Safety umbrella, works with all the divisions of the University, concentrating on the planning process so that the University may maintain a continuity of operation during a crisis or emergency. This area of responsibility addresses the emergency management phases of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

While the University and City of Gadsden work diligently to promote a safe environment, realize that personal safety starts with you. You can enhance your safety by becoming informed and by using good judgment. Take the initiative to familiarize yourself with the safety information and services detailed in this guide. Don't stop there, however. Follow-up by seeking additional information about safety by contacting UAPD's community services staff or contact your local police to determine what services are available where you live or work. Ensure that UA can communicate with you in the event of an emergency by signing up for **UA Alerts**. Finally, get involved! There are a number of organizations and community groups that take an active role in promoting quality of life and safety on the University, in Gadsden, and in your local community. By educating yourself and taking part, you can positively influence your community and learn valuable safety skills that will benefit you wherever the road may lead you.

I hope you find the information provided here beneficial. If you need the assistance of the UAPD, please do not hesitate to call us – we are here to help you!

Sincerely,



John Hooks  
Chief of Police

# SAFER LIVING GUIDE

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The University of Alabama has a comprehensive emergency plan in place to deal with any crisis that may occur on the Gadsden Center campus. Because the services that the University provides at the Gadsden Center are limited in scope, the University works closely with City of Gadsden officials to ensure emergency services are accessible and that emergency plan objectives are met. The Gadsden Center is located within the city limits of Gadsden, therefore, Gadsden police and fire have concurrent jurisdiction with the University of Alabama Police and provide services to the Center. In a crisis or emergency, the **primary focus** of UAPD will be to locate and confront the threat immediately.

### EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

The University is fully prepared to notify the University community of emergencies through a variety of methods:

- Phone
- Email
- UA Gadsden Center website
- UA Alerts
- Direct Communication

Community members should tune to local radio and television stations for additional information that would assist them.

### PERSONAL SAFETY IN CRITICAL SITUATIONS

When there are incidents of violence in a school setting, initial reactions by those affected are critical. Any violent act is tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Preparedness and response for unpredictable incidents may vary with each situation. Each individual must evaluate the specific situation and make the best decision(s) regarding their own safety. Immediate and accurate information from witnesses will be instrumental to the mitigation of the incident.

At the onset of a critical situation, the following steps should be followed:

- Seek a safe location.
- Immediately notify Gadsden Police by calling 911.
- When you call GPD, remain calm and provide your present building location and specific room number.
- Provide a complete description of the suspect(s) including any observed weapons and suspect(s) last known location.
- Provide the location of any injured victims.
- Stay on the phone with the GPD communications operator until the operator advises that you are no longer needed.
- Once law enforcement officers are on the scene, they will move through the area/building to assist you.
- Follow all directions from law enforcement officers immediately.

If during a crisis, you have decided that your safest strategy is for you to stay in an office or classroom, it is suggested that you:

- Close and secure the door. If the door has a window, stay out of sight.
- Seek shelter under/behind heavy furniture that might hide your presence.
- Quietly call GPD and provide the same information listed above.

If during a crisis, you are on the perimeter of an incident, it is suggested that you:

- Stay out of the area in a safe location.
- Please do not add to the confusion by becoming a curious bystander.
- Follow any directives given by law enforcement officers.

### SUMMARY

The University of Alabama, through the partnerships established through the city of Gadsden, is prepared to handle all aspects of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. You should give thought and consideration to what you would do in an emergency. Familiarizing yourself with the information in this guide will help you and others in a time of crisis.

# UNIVERSITY POLICE

## MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

If someone on campus needs emergency medical care, call 911. The call will reach the local public safety answering point. Local ambulance service and paramedics from the Gadsden Fire and Rescue Service will respond. When you call 911, remember:

- The victim should not be moved, except to be removed from life-threatening conditions.
- Someone should stay with the victim until help arrives.
- Give complete directions to the victim's location.
- Accurately describe what happened.
- Stay on the line until the Communications Operator tells you to hang up.
- Guide emergency officials to the victim.
- Stay out of the way, and keep others out of the way of emergency officials. Before you leave the scene, check with a police officer to see if further information is needed.

## FIRE EMERGENCIES

In the event of a fire on or off campus, sound the nearest fire alarm in the building. Exit the building, then call 911. Tell the Communications Operator your name and address, and the location and extent of the fire. If you know of any people with disabilities in the building, tell the Communications Operator about them. Assign an escort to each person with a disability. If you think it's possible, confine the fire by closing nearby windows and doors, but never linger in a building in which smoke or fumes threaten to overcome you. Exit the building quickly and calmly. Do not use elevators, but follow the lighted exit signs to the closest fire exit. When possible, follow the posted evacuation route.

Meet emergency officials outside the building and inform them of the location of the fire. Remain outside at a safe distance, and keep others away from the building and from

emergency vehicles. In all cases, follow the instructions of fire and police personnel on the scene.

## HOMELAND SECURITY

If you receive a threat, or know of a threat, that could affect the well-being or safety of the Gadsden Center community, contact Gadsden Police immediately at 911 or (256) 549-4578. Provide as much information about the situation as possible. Gadsden Police will respond to, analyze, and evaluate the situation to determine the next course of action.

## PERSONAL SAFETY SECURITY AND ACCESS TO THE GADSDEN CENTER

Academic and administrative facilities are locked after their business hours. Students and staff with access to buildings for after-hours work must lock doors behind them after they enter and are encouraged to follow all personal safety precautions. If you are alone at night in a campus building, be sure a friend knows where you are and when you'll return home. (If you don't leave on schedule, remember to let your friend know.) Never prop open a secured door to a building or residence hall. If you see a propped door, close it.

## CELLULAR PHONES

Enter the numbers of all local law enforcement agencies at the top of your cell phone directory; for a listing, see this guide's back cover. Remember, dialing 911 from your cellular phone will connect you to the local 911 center. If you need the non-emergency assistance, dial the appropriate agency directly using the appropriate agency phone number.

## LIGHTING

The University works to ensure that indoor and outdoor lighting at the Gadsden Center contributes to safety. If you see an outdoor light that isn't working, call the Gadsden Center

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administrative office at (256) 546-2886 and give the information to the staff member who answers the phone or leave a message on voicemail.

## ADVISORIES

The University of Alabama Police Department maintains a close working relationship with Gadsden Police in order to facilitate the sharing of information about issues or incidents that could impact Gadsden Center students. When UA officials become aware of a situation that poses an imminent, ongoing threat to the Gadsden Center community, information is released in the form of an advisory, also known as timely warnings. These advisories are posted on both the UAPD and Gadsden Center web pages and are posted prominently in the Center. Advisories can be viewed at [police.ua.edu](http://police.ua.edu/gadsden.ua.edu) or [gadsden.ua.edu](http://gadsden.ua.edu).

## WEAPONS POLICY ON CAMPUS

Illegal or unauthorized possession of firearms, ammunition, explosives, other weapons, or dangerous chemicals is not allowed in the Gadsden Center facility as indicated in the UA Student Code of Conduct.

## STALKING

The Alabama criminal code defines stalking as “a person who intentionally and repeatedly follows or harasses another person and who makes a credible threat, either expressed or implied, with the intent to place that person in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily harm.” If you believe you are a victim of stalking, contact the police.

## HARASSMENT

The University of Alabama is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free from illegal harassment based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran status. Students, employees, and visitors are encouraged to review the University’s on-line training tutorial on

harassment (<http://training.newmedialearning.com/psh/ua/>) so that they can understand what is inappropriate behavior that should be reported. Details about to whom an individual should report harassment are found in the policy located at: <http://eop.ua.edu/harrassment.html>.

## DATING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence can exist in several forms: emotional, physical, and sexual. If you are involved in an abusive relationship, remember that no one deserves to be abused or threatened and, in time, the violence may get worse. If you are involved in a violent relationship, call police.

## ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

If you choose to drink alcohol, drink responsibly. Avoid consuming alcohol to the point where you are a danger to yourself or others and can’t make good decisions about your safety. Increased alcohol consumption has been linked to sexually transmitted disease, unwanted pregnancy, and sexual assault.

Combining drugs, including alcohol and prescription drugs, can be very dangerous. Breathing can stop, the heart can stop, and death can occur. Students are increasingly taking prescription stimulants to heighten concentration during study sessions. You risk serious, possibly long-term side effects if you do this. Possession of prescription medication, without a prescription, is a felony.

## DEPRESSION

The stress of classes, moving away from home, forming new relationships, and worrying about the future can lead you to feel like you just can’t cope any longer. Sometimes, these feelings of being overwhelmed disappear after a few days. If they don’t, it may be time to seek professional help. If you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of depression, contact the UA Counseling Center at (205) 348-3863.

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## GAMBLING

The University of Alabama has developed a Financial Health, Debt Management, and Gambling Strategic Health Team. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, the UA Counseling Center provides a completely confidential process of assisting you. You can contact the UA Counseling Center at (205) 348-3863.

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Many times police officers respond to conflicts between individuals or groups. When these situations result in physical injury to one or more parties, a close review of the situation has shown that the original disagreement, in most cases, could have been avoided if one or more of the parties had used better judgment along with suggested resolution techniques. By identifying the reason a person is upset, many times the situation can be resolved prior to it escalating to violence. Alcohol consumption has been shown to play a major role in the probability of any situation turning more adversarial. Remember these important tips:

- At the first opportunity, call police.
- Project calmness: move and speak slowly, quietly, and confidently.
- Be an empathetic listener: encourage the other party to tell you what they believe the problem is and listen patiently.
- If unreasonable behavior persists, calmly describe the consequences of violent behavior.
- At the first opportunity, disengage from the situation and wait for the police.

Once property is damaged or someone is hurt, it's too late to wish you had done the right thing. **THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!**

(Material sources for conflict resolution: *Verbal Judo* by George Thompson, Ph.D. and *How to Deal with Upset People* by Pennie Myers and Don Nance)

## SAFETY ON THE ROAD AND IN PUBLIC PLACES

- Upon parking your car, lock it with the windows up. At night, park as close as possible to lights and activity. When returning to your car, get a friend to go with you if possible. Always check the back seat (including the floor) before entering your vehicle.
- When driving, don't stop for hitchhikers or broken-down vehicles. To help a stranded driver, use a phone and notify police. If you think you are being followed by a person in another vehicle, or being watched, drive to a well-lit, busy public place and call the police. When you arrive home, have your keys in hand as you leave the car.
- Make sure your car stays in good running condition, and you have enough gas. If you have car trouble, raise the hood or tie a handkerchief to the door handle to signal for help. Stay in the locked car, keeping the windows up. If someone stops to help, lower the window one inch and ask the person to call the police or an auto club.
- If your car has a vanity license plate, be sure it doesn't give a criminal useful information about you, such as your name or nickname.

## SAFETY AT HOME

Assaults can occur at your residence. Practice prevention whether you live on campus or off.

- When you enter your residence, close and lock the door immediately. Use dead bolts and keep windows locked when not in use.
- Be smart about keys. Don't leave them outside or in hiding places. Don't lend them to anyone. If you lose your keys, change your locks. Have locks changed before you move in to a new residence.
- Get to know your neighbors and which ones you can trust in an emergency.



## SAFER LIVING GUIDE

- Never open your door to strangers; install and use peep holes. Require proper identification from utility and repair people. If a stranger asks to use your phone, keep your door locked and offer to place the call yourself. If the situation seems suspicious, **CALL POLICE IMMEDIATELY**. Be able to describe the person when you report the incident to police.
- Women who live alone or with other women should use unlisted phone numbers and not list their addresses in the phone book. Don't reveal to a caller that you are alone, and don't give your phone number to a wrong-number caller. Don't leave your name on your answering machine message. Agree with your roommates that none of you will give the following information to an unknown caller:
  - Who is home
  - Who is out
  - When someone will return
- In residence halls, follow all security regulations and tell your RA about unauthorized or suspicious persons.
- Make sure all entrances are well lit.
- When walking, avoid alleys, vacant lots, and shortcuts. Listen for footsteps and voices. Notice cars that pass you more than once or pull up beside you. If someone follows you, go to a public building. If someone follows you on campus, use an emergency blue phone or call University Police, and describe the vehicle and person to the Police Communications Operator.

### PREVENTING ASSAULTS

#### REDUCING YOUR RISK OF ACQUAINTANCE SEXUAL ASSAULTS

Sexual assault is an act of violence. Many believe that sexual assault is a crime committed by strangers in dark alleys, but most sexual assaults are committed by acquaintances or dates. While it is never your fault if you are assaulted, there are measures you can take to decrease your chances of becoming a victim:

- Never accept a date from someone you don't know, especially one that would involve being alone with the person.
- Avoid going to unfamiliar surroundings with someone you don't know very well.

Never be overconfident when it comes to your safety. Removing the opportunity for sexual assault is a big part of protecting yourself. Staying sober is one of your best defenses.

#### WHEN ALCOHOL AND DRUGS ARE INVOLVED, YOUR CHANCES OF BEING SEXUALLY ASSAULTED GREATLY INCREASE.

Men should clarify sexual expectations ahead of time. Remember that you are responsible for your actions at all times and being intoxicated is not a legal defense for any sexual assault. Don't make assumptions when it comes to sexual contact. Communicate clearly and always get consent. A person has the right to say "no" at any point and to have that choice be respected.

#### REDUCING YOUR RISK OF DRUG-INDUCED SEXUAL ASSAULTS

Unfortunately, many people nationwide have become victims of drug-induced sexual assaults. A person who has been drugged with flunitrazepam (Rohypnol), gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), or scopolamine may experience drowsiness, dizziness, and disorientation. Speech and motor skills may also be affected, with the drugged individual being unable to remember periods of time as long as 10 hours. To protect yourself from drug-induced sexual assaults:

- Never leave your drink unattended.
- Only drink from cans/bottles you open.
- Only consume drinks you have prepared yourself.
- Avoid group drinks (e.g., punch).

If you think you may have been drugged and sexually assaulted, seek medical treatment as outlined in the following "Reporting Sexual Assaults" section.

# UNIVERSITY POLICE

## REPORTING SEXUAL ASSAULTS

If you have been sexually assaulted on campus, report the crime to Police. Reporting doesn't mean you must take legal action (that's a choice you can make later), but by reporting the crime, you may help to stop the perpetrator from committing more assaults.

If you are sexually assaulted, preserve physical evidence that could be useful in an investigation.

**Do not** change clothes, bathe, douche, or use the toilet. **Do** seek medical care immediately, whether or not you report the crime. In addition to taking care of obvious injuries, you need medical care to protect you from sexually transmitted diseases. A physician can also counsel you about the possibility of pregnancy. The Women's Resource Center offers care and counseling free of charge to University students. The center may be contacted at (205) 348-5040 or through University Police.

If you have been sexually assaulted and might consider taking legal action against the assailant, you need to receive medical care at Gadsden Regional Medical Center, Regional Medical Center, or Riverview Regional Medical Center, if you are in the Gadsden area. The emergency-room doctors at these medical centers are the only area physicians who give medical exams in which evidence of sexual assault can be obtained and preserved for legal action. Without this evidence, chances for successful prosecution are drastically reduced. The exam should occur as soon as possible after an assault. Bring a change of clothes with you as clothes worn during the assault will be secured as evidence. If you've already changed clothes, bring along any articles that may have blood or semen on them.

**Reporting an assault doesn't mean you must take legal action but reporting may help stop the criminal.**



**Confidential Reporting:** Even if you are entirely certain you won't take legal action, we encourage you to seek medical care and counseling. The UA Women's Resource Center is available for counseling at (205) 348-5040, or you may opt to use local counseling services. Local news media receive notice of assaults reported to the police so that others are alerted; however, names of victims are not released and their privacy is stringently protected at all times by the University. UA counselors will not pressure you to report the attack to police if you choose not to, and your family will not be notified.

**Confidential Counseling:** Student victims of sexual assault or relationship violence can seek confidential counseling services through the Women's Resource Center (WRC) or the UA Counseling Center. The WRC offers a Victim Advocacy Program for victims of dating/domestic violence or sexual assault. The program provides confidential counseling and advocacy for victims and includes individual and group counseling. Information and support are also available for family and friends of victims. Contact the WRC victim advocate by calling (205) 348-5040, or by calling University Police (205) 348-5454 after regular business hours.

## WITNESSING A CRIME

If you witness a crime or are the victim of a crime, obtain descriptions and call police. Be prepared to give a description of the offender,

## SAFER LIVING GUIDE

including clothing. If a vehicle is involved, get a description and the license plate number if possible. Remember which direction the vehicle travelled. UAPD encourages you to report crime, suspicious activity or safety concerns you may have to police.

### PREVENTING THEFT

Theft of unattended property accounts for much of the crime reported in the US each year. Lock your house or apartment door, even when you're home. Lock your car and remove valuable items from sight. If you work in an office or a classroom, lock your purse and other valuables in a cabinet or drawer. It takes no time to lock up, even if you're just leaving for a moment.

Never leave property unattended in a classroom, restaurant, recreation facility, or rest room. Take your things with you or have a friend watch them. Make sure that you have clearly marked your property so that you can identify it as being yours.

### CREDIT CARDS

Don't carry a lot of credit cards in your wallet or purse. Carry just one or two and leave the others in a secure place at home. If your credit cards are stolen, know what cards you had, and the phone numbers to call to immediately cancel the cards and report them as stolen. Usually a thief will use your stolen credit cards in less than an hour. Don't forget to check your statement every month to make sure there have not been any unauthorized charges.

### OPERATION ID

Marking valuables brings the best chance for recovering them, and it's a proven way to discourage theft. **Operation ID** makes it easy. With a permanent marker, put your name and address on the inside cover of your textbooks, and put your initials (or other marks you'd recognize) on one or more of the pages.

University Police provide a property registration sheet on their website for you to record the manufacturer, model number, and serial number of each item. Keep this form in a safe place away from your valuables.

### IDENTITY THEFT

Thefts of documents can be the first step in an identity theft crime. Keep documents with personal information secured at all times. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet; keep it in a safe place. When discarding unwanted mail, shred sensitive or personal information with a shredder or by hand. Adopt a "need to know" attitude about personal data. Your credit card company may need to know your mother's maiden name, so that it can verify your identity when you call to inquire about your account. A person who calls you and says he's from your bank or credit card company, doesn't need to know that information if it's already on file with your bank. Make callers give you what information THEY have on file. If you still don't feel comfortable, get the caller's name and return the call to a phone number you know is associated with the valid company. The more information printed on your personal bank checks, such as your Social Security number or driver's license number, the more personal data you are routinely handing out. Check your monthly financial statements carefully to find out if someone has made unauthorized debits or charges against your accounts. Periodically ask for a copy of your credit report. Make sure all active accounts were actually opened by you. E-mail schemes, called "phishing," attempt to trick you into disclosing sensitive information. The e-mail appears to come from companies with whom you may regularly do business (e.g., AOL, Paypal, eBay, financial institution, or a credit card company). Many of these e-mail schemes contain links to look-a-like websites loaded with actual trademarked images. The sender asks you to confirm your personal information for

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some made-up reason: your account is about to be closed, or your information has been lost because of a computer problem. The sender instructs you to “re-enter” credit card numbers, Social Security numbers, bank PINs, or other personal information. If you actually provide the information requested, the data goes to scammers. This data is often used to order goods or services or to obtain a credit card in your name.

## ONLINE COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

Online communities can be great tools to express yourself and learn about others around you, but keep in mind both the benefits and the risks. Bad things that happen in actual relationships, such as harassment and stalking, also occur online. It is not a good idea to put your date of birth or your Social Security number on these sites for everyone to see. Never disclose when you will be away from your residence. Be careful and use good judgment.

## VEHICLE CRIMES

To reduce risk of theft from your vehicle:

- Keep valuable items out of sight.
- Mark an identifier on all items that might interest a thief.
- If you see any suspicious activity (e.g., someone loitering nearby), report any such activity to the police.
- If you have an item with a serial number, record and keep the number in a safe place. (See **Operation ID**)
- Remove your stereo faceplate if it is made to do so.
- Lock your doors and roll up your windows.
- Never leave your vehicle running while unattended.



## REMOVE VALUABLES FROM SIGHT

## WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME OR MY PROPERTY?

Despite everyone's best efforts, people will be victimized. If that happens to you, the police will provide you with as much help and information as possible. When you call police to report an incident or offense, a police report may be filed. A police officer will generally respond to where you are and take the report after gathering all available facts. The completed report is then forwarded to an investigator, who may contact the victim for an interview or to gather additional information. If a suspect is developed in the case, the victim will have a few choices to make: prosecute through the criminal court system (have the subject arrested), issue a student non-academic misconduct citation (University judicial system), or do nothing to the suspect (no prosecution). After this decision, the next step will vary depending on court appearances and testifying. If within 60 days you are not notified of an arrest in your case, you may call the telephone number of the law enforcement agency to check the case status. Be prepared to give your name, the date of the crime or a case number to the investigator who answers your call.



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## LOST AND FOUND

The main office of the Gadsden Center can assist you with property that is lost or found on campus. You can contact the main office at the Gadsden Center at (256) 546-2886.

## UA SEVERE WEATHER GUIDELINES

One of the guiding principles at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency.

These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on the Gadsden Center campus. The Gadsden Center is a commuter academic facility located in the city of Gadsden. Because many students and faculty commute to the Gadsden Center from a great distance away, if there is a significant probability that severe

weather will impact the Gadsden area during class hours, the Director of the Gadsden Center may suspend normal operations in advance of approaching weather systems. If normal operations are suspended, UA Gadsden Center staff will communicate to students, faculty and staff in the manner described below. Absent a suspension of normal operations, classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the City of Gadsden. Students and faculty who commute from adjacent counties should monitor local conditions as these counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Gadsden. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

## WEATHER ALERTS

### When bad weather enters the Gadsden area:

- Remain alert to rapidly changing weather conditions—stay tuned to local radio or television stations for weather updates and advisories.
- A tornado watch means tornadoes may develop. A tornado warning means a funnel cloud or tornado has actually been sighted or indicated on weather radar. The university has a weather siren on campus.
- When severe weather strikes and the warning sirens sound:
  - Move into the nearest shelter;
  - Go to the lowest floor available, in the center of the building, away from windows;
  - Stay tuned to radio or television stations for further weather statements.

**An area siren test is held the first Wednesday of each month at noon, weather permitting. In the event of local severe weather, the University places weather information online at <http://uanews.ua.edu/severeweather.htm>.**

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When the northeast Alabama area is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to go to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff, and students take.

The University will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions at the Gadsden Center in one or more of the following ways:

1. Weather advisory posted on the UA Gadsden Center homepage
2. Phone
3. E-mail
4. UA Alerts
5. Going room to room if classes are in session

Many local television and radio stations broadcast weather advisories, and NOAA weather radios are available at many retail stores. Make sure you know where you can obtain accurate and timely weather information.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. In the Gadsden Center, rooms B1 and B2 are utilized as shelter locations. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains. For more information on weather related emergencies, go to [www.beready.ua.edu](http://www.beready.ua.edu).

## CAMPUS SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY REPORT

Each year, The University of Alabama publishes the UA Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report and the UA Gadsden Center Annual Campus Security Report. These reports are required by federal law and contain policy statements and crime statistics, and for UA, applicable fire safety policies and procedures. These reports also address policies, procedures and programs concerning safety and security; for example, policies for responding to emergency situations and sexual offenses. Three years' worth of statistics are included for certain types of crimes that were reported to have occurred on campus, in or on off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by the school, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to the campus. The UA report is available online to view or print at [safety.ua.edu](http://safety.ua.edu), and the UA Gadsden Center report is available at [safety.ua.edu/gadsden/](http://safety.ua.edu/gadsden/). You may also request a paper copy of either report from the Office of Community Services at [police.ua.edu](http://police.ua.edu) or at Box 870180, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0180.

The Alabama Department of Public Safety, a state agency, also provides an online listing of sex offenders currently registered with the state. This listing is available on the Alabama Department of Public Safety Community Information Center website at <http://dps.alabama.gov/Community/wfSexOffenderSearch.aspx>. For information regarding the enrollment or employment of registered sex offenders at The University of Alabama write University Police, Attention: Community Services Division, Box 870180, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0180.



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....	911
Gadsden Police Department .....	(256) 549-4578
Etowah County Sheriff's Department .....	(256) 546-2825
Alabama State Troopers .....	(256) 546-6385
Gadsden Regional Medical Center .....	(256) 494-4000
University of Alabama Police .....	(205) 348-5454
Emergency Preparedness.....	(205) 348-4386
Judicial Affairs .....	(205) 348-8234
Women's Resource Center .....	(205) 348-5040
UA Counseling Center .....	(205) 348-3863

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

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## P O L I C E

The University of Alabama Police Department (UAPD) is a full service police agency tasked with providing law enforcement services and investigating crimes that occur on the campus of and on properties owned or leased by the University of Alabama. The agency is comprised of sixty-seven sworn, state-commissioned police officers and sixteen full-time support personnel. All UA police officers are certified by the Alabama Peace Officers Minimum Standards Commission and have the same authorities and must meet the same expectations as law enforcement officers in any community. Additionally, the UAPD is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, an international organization that certifies an agency's compliance with a comprehensive body of modern professional law enforcement and management standards. The UAPD is one of only five departments in the State of Alabama, and one of less than fifty campus law enforcement agencies in the United States, that holds CALEA-accreditation. The department provides a comprehensive array of law enforcement services twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.