

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT SURVIVAL GUIDE



“How to be SAFER and
a Better Neighbor”

FEATURING TIPS ON:

- * Personal/property safety* pages 1-4
- * Fire safety* page 4
- * Being a better neighbor* pages 5-7

*Provided by the Committee on University &
Community Relations and the Office of Community
Standards, Division of Student Success,
University at Albany*

BE SAFER

PERSONAL AND PROPERTY SAFETY

HELP MAKE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFER! JOIN THE “MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH”!

The “Midtown Neighborhood Watch” program involves patrols by resident volunteers, college students and long term neighbors with close Albany Police Department coordination to monitor and report unusual activity and unsafe conditions as well as disseminate appropriate safety information to residents in the patrol area. For more information and an application contact the University at Albany’s Office of Community Standards at 518-442-5501.

You have the right to a safe and secure apartment. Be sure your apartment has a “**Residential Occupancy Permit**” by asking your landowner to show you this document that verifies that the City of Albany has inspected your rental unit. Part of this inspection requires that landowners install specific security devices in your apartment. Questions – call the Division of Building and Codes at 434-5995.

Join **WhistleWatch** - a program designed to alert community residents of a problem occurring in the area. WhistleWatch works by a person blowing his/her whistle to signal trouble. Pick up a whistle and brochure at among other locations:

- University Police Department, University at Albany Police Building.
- The Security Office at the College of St. Rose, Lima Hall

Downtown Safety



DO:

- *Let others know where you’re going
- *Let others know when you’ll be back
- *Go out with friends and come back with them
- *Use good judgement
- *Use good safety sense

DON'T:

- *Go to a stranger's apartment
- *Overindulge if you decide to drink alcohol; an intoxicated person is an easy target
- *Let your guard down OR go to places alone

ROOFIES/RUFINOL? SPECIAL K? GHB?

These and other drugs can be slipped into your drink so please:

- Don't leave your drink unattended.
- Don't accept drinks from strangers.
- Do stay in the company of friends.
- Do use good judgement.



Other Safety Tips:

- Don't walk alone at night if at all possible.
- If you have no choice, be aware of your surroundings, walk confidently, and act like you know where you're going--even if you don't.
- If you are walking on a dark, quiet street with no traffic, walk in the road.
- Avoid dark places or groups of people; be aware of places that people can hide.
- If you are being followed by someone in a car, turn around and walk in the opposite direction, then find the nearest safe place (it will take time for the car to turn around if they want to keep following you).
 - Walk on lighted paths and sidewalks. Don't take the "shortcut" if it's not well lit.

Your Apartment:



- Secure and lock your windows in the completely closed position whenever your apartment is not occupied.
- Always be sure all doors are securely locked and utilize the other safety devices that may be built into your apartment. They don't work unless you use them!
- Get **apartment insurance** – check with your parents/family about getting a “rider” on their homeowner's policy or call a local insurance agent about getting your own policy.

If your apartment will be unoccupied for any extended period:

- *Notify a trusted neighbor that you'll be gone and ask him/her to watch your apartment.
- *Cancel all deliveries such as newspapers and have all mail held by the post office.
- *Do not leave valuables out in the open and remove anything of exceptional value. Close all first floor blinds and curtains.
- *Use automatic timers to turn lights on and off.
- If you are moving out or changing apartments, do not leave valuables unattended while moving.
- Call the Albany Police Department at 911 to report immediately all crimes and any suspicious activity.

Bike Thefts: 

- Never leave your bike unattended. If unable to secure – bring it inside.
- Lock up your bike with a u-lock (i.e. kryptonite).

Carbon Monoxide Can be a Killer!

In the City of Albany landowners are required to install a CO-detector in your apartment if:

- Your apartment has forced hot air heat produced by a fossil fuel (i.e. gas, oil) burning unit in your basement.
- Your apartment has any fossil-burning unit within the apartment itself (i.e. heater or hot water tank with oil or gas).

Questions – call the Albany Fire Department at 447-7879.

Theft From Your Car? 

Don't make it easy for thieves to steal your valuables.

Take these common sense steps:

1. Always lock your car and pocket your keys.
2. Close windows all the way and make sure your trunk is locked.
3. Keep everything of value that you can in your trunk.
4. If you can't leave valuables in the trunk put them in the glove compartment or make sure they are out of sight.

5. An unattended car phone is virtually guaranteed to be stolen. Secure all phone equipment and computer equipment in the trunk or glove compartment.
6. Park in well-lighted and busy areas. Avoid leaving your vehicle in unattended parking lots for long periods of time.
7. If you park in a lot where you must leave a key, leave the ignition key only.
8. Don't leave your registration inside your vehicle, but carry it with you. Important identification papers or credit cards should never be left in the glove compartment.
9. Report all suspicious activity wherever you are. You may be preventing a crime against your vehicle or someone else's.
10. Investigate security systems if you live in a high-theft area.
11. Buy radios, tape and CD players that can be removed and locked in your trunk.

**FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.**

Level of driver intoxication in New York State is .08 BAC
(formerly .10 BAC).

FIRE SAFETY



Smoke detectors are required in each room used for sleeping purposes. For more information, call the Albany Fire Department at 447-7879.

Don't leave stoves or grills unattended when they are lit/on.

Don't barbecue on your porch or near your apartment! You could be jeopardizing your life, the lives of your apartmentmates and your neighbors. In the City of Albany, **it's the law** that barbecuing must take place at least twenty-five (25) feet from any wood structure and in no event within ten (10) feet of **any** structure.

Keep your porch free of debris, couches, stuffed chairs, trash, mattresses and other combustibles. It will help you avoid a fire.

BE A BETTER NEIGHBOR

Follow Garbage and Recycling Collection Rules:



Garbage and recyclables should be set out in enclosed containers and should NOT be placed outside before 7:00 p.m. of the day prior to your scheduled collection day. The City of Albany provides each residence with recycling bins, free of charge. If you do not have a bin, they are available at the Department of General Services, One Richard J. Conners Blvd, 12204 Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you do not know your collection day or have any other questions, please call 434-CITY.

Observe the City of Albany’s “Noise Ordinance:”



It prohibits unreasonable noise anytime, but primarily between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Police may issue appearance tickets to or even arrest violators. Fines range up to \$250 and/or fifteen days in jail for repeat or serious violators.

Abide by the “Open Container Law:”



It is illegal for a person to possess an open container of an alcoholic beverage in a public place. Fines range from \$150 - \$250 or imprisonment up to 10 – 15 days.

Observe the NYS Alcohol Beverage Control Law (pertains to house parties):

*Persons under the age of 21 are prohibited from possessing any alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume the beverage.

Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$50 per offense plus 30 hours of community service and the cost for completion of an alcohol awareness program (\$175.00-\$300.00).

*It is a Class A misdemeanor to give/deliver an alcoholic beverage to any person/s under the age of 21. Penalties for violation may result in a jail term of up to one year and/or a fine up to \$1000.00.



*No person shall sell or offer for sale any alcoholic beverage without obtaining the appropriate license. This is also a Class A misdemeanor, but in addition to the above noted penalties, a violator may be fined two times the license fee in the county (Albany County-\$3500.00 maximum).

If You Have a Party:

It is your responsibility to stay in control of yourself and your guests. Also for your safety and those of your guests, avoid overcrowding which might:

- block apartment exits in case of any emergency.
- result in your porch or entire apartment collapsing.
- result in vehicles blocking your street in case fire, police, and/or medical units need to respond.
- force your guests to inappropriately use “outdoor bathroom facilities.”

Talk to your neighbors before the party. Clean up after the party both inside and outside. **Avoid excessive alcohol consumption** which increases the risk of personal injury and even death as well as can contribute to sexual assault and legal problems.

Own a cat or dog?   Please be a “good neighbor.” When leaving your apartment, if you can’t take your pet with you and have no other alternative, call the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society at 434-8128.

If you own a dog, please be aware of the so-called "pooper scooper" law. As cited in the New York State Health Law, Section 1310: "it shall be the duty of each dog owner to remove any feces left by his [her] dog on any sidewalk, gutter, street or other public area." Any violators brought to Albany City Court could be charged a civil penalty of up to \$100.00.

DON'T GET TOWED & FINED!



ALBANY CITY SNOW EMERGENCY?



*1st 24 hours: vehicles to EVEN side *2nd 24 hours: vehicles to ODD side

CALL 476-SNOW

**PROBLEMS WITH THE STUDENT OR NEIGHBOR NEXT
DOOR OR STUDENTS/NEIGHBORS IN YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD?**

**CALL THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
“OFF-CAMPUS HOTLINE” AT 442-5888
24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.**

WANT TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY RELATIONS?

Created in 1990 by the University at Albany and the City of Albany, the “Committee on University & Community Relations” has undertaken the following goals:

- improving campus-community relations
- making life safer off campus for college students and local residents
- developing and carrying out alcohol and other drug prevention and education programs
- improving the quality of life in neighborhoods off campus where college students reside

This diverse committee is composed of representatives from students and professional staff at the University at Albany, College of St. Rose, Albany Medical College, Junior College of Albany/Sage Colleges, Albany College of Pharmacy, Siena College and Hudson Valley Community College as well as the Albany Police and Fire Departments, the Albany Common Council, neighborhood associations, community and religious leaders, tavern owners, landowners, the New York State Division of Alcohol Beverage Control and the Empire State Restaurant & Tavern Association.

The committee meets on the second Wednesday of every month except for January. If you would like more information or would like to attend one of our meetings please contact Nancy Lauricella, Chairperson of the Committee on University & Community Relations and Executive Director of the Office of Community Standards at the University at Albany at 518-442-5501.