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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

ocsurvival16:ucoho (FALL 2014)
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.

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

If You Have a Party:
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• 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.

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“OFF-CAMPUS HOTLINE” AT 442-5888
24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.
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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.

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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).

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.

Thieves 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.
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