

Personal Safety, MSU and You

Staff Strategies for
Personal Safety and Crime Prevention at
Minnesota State University, Mankato

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Definition of Crime Prevention

“The anticipation, recognition
and appraisal
of a crime risk and the
initiation of action
to remove or reduce it.”



ANTICIPATION



- The ability to observe settings and situations and assess what opportunities exist for crime to occur
- Think like the bad guy – just temporarily!
- Know the risk before you're faced with the situation

RECOGNITION



- Recognize suspicious activity and do something about it sooner, not later
- The ability to identify suspicious persons, unusual activity, things that are out of place
- We would rather respond to a “suspicious activity” call than come back two hours later to investigate a burglary

APPRAISAL



- A basic premise of crime prevention says that you are more likely to successfully *prevent* crime if you know which *types* of crime you are likely to experience.
- What crimes are most likely to occur at your workplace? Prepare according to the risk.
- There are no guarantees, only the opportunity to reduce the risk.

INITIATION OF ACTION



- Take steps to remove or reduce the risk
- Prepare a safety plan and practice it regularly
- Educate employees/co-workers about the risks and safety plan
- Learn about crime prevention and encourage your co-workers to do the same

What types of crime occur at MSU?



- Almost *any type* of crime can occur *anywhere* at *any time*.
- Statistical data can help us decide what type of crime we are most likely to experience, so we can take steps to prevent it.

Preparation is the key!



- Pre-pare for the eventuality that crime will affect your workplace
- Develop a workplace safety plan and review it regularly, making changes as needed
- Teamwork is a great foundation for crime prevention



Workplace Violence



- Homicide is the third leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in the US (OSHA 2000)
- In 2007, there were 610 workplace homicides, representing 11% of all fatal occupational injuries in the US (Bureau of Labor Statistics 2008)

Workplace Violence



- **On a national average, 1.8 workers per 100 reported being assaulted at work in 1999**

Social service workers = 13 per 100

Health services workers = 9 per 100

- **Nat'l rate of violent crimes experienced by people at work is 13 in 1000**

Police officers = 261 in 1000

(Nat'l Crime Victimization Survey 1999)

Workplace Violence Risk Factors



- Contact with the public
- Exchange of money
- Delivery of passengers, goods & services
- Having a mobile workplace (taxi, patrol car)
- Working w/ unstable or volatile persons in a health care, social service or criminal justice setting
- Working alone or in small numbers

Workplace Violence Risk Factors



- Working late at night or during early morning hours
- Working in a high crime area
- Guarding valuable property or possessions

• (Nat'l Institute of Occupational Safety & Health NIOSH 1996)

Where is MSU?



- Three areas under the federal mandates to be addressed.
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Crisis Management
 - Continuity of Operations

- All Hazard Plan is comprised of the Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management (Security response procedures is also part of crisis management).

Campus Emergency Response Team (CERT)



The Campus Emergency Response Team (CERT) is made up of the Cabinet with the Minnesota State University, Mankato President acting as the response team leader. In the event of one or more members of the Campus Emergency Response Team are unavailable, the following succession of authority will be in effect:

- President
- Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
- Dean of Students
- Vice President for Finance and Administration
- Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer
- Vice President for University Advancement
- Assistant to the President

- The President may enlarge the Campus Emergency Response Team (CERT) to temporarily include individuals having specific knowledge regarding the situation being discussed.

What can you do?



- Everyone member of the campus community plans a role in emergency situations.
- Be aware of public campus procedures
 - Emergency notification methods
 - Temporary relocation sites
- Participate in creating/updating the plan for your office or classroom areas.
- Online NIMS training at FEMA website, ICS 700.

Office Safety

Diffuse & Report Incidents



- Remain calm and pleasant with irate callers, customers or coworkers – You stay safer and more in control by not going to their level
- Try to listen to what the person is saying. Make it clear that you can only help if they themselves stay calm
- Keep aware of tone, body position, and implied or actual threats
- If it's clear that you are not going to be able to assist the person, call for a supervisor
- Document the incident as soon as possible or call the MSU Security Department

In a confrontation...



- Evaluate the threat and the ability of the perpetrator to carry out the threat
- Use calming, quiet language
- Interrupt
- Create barriers

In a confrontation...



- If the confrontation turns physical, consider your options
- Yelling, screaming to attract attention might work in a stranger attack situation
- Appear to be cooperative and wait for an out
- Negotiate (take my car keys, let me go)
- Comply (armed robbery)
- Prepare to physically resist if necessary

Emergencies on Campus



- Use the blue phones to connect immediately with police dispatch.
- Know your location and be able to give an address if possible.
- Stay calm and let the dispatcher guide the conversation.
- Do not hang up until the dispatcher tells you to hang up.

Emergencies on Campus



- Alert others to the emergency and ask for help from passersby if necessary.
- Be prepared to answer questions that the emergency dispatcher will have.
- If the threat is still present, whether it be a suspect, fire, or other, advise the dispatcher and attempt to go to a safer place.
- Do not move injured persons unless the threat of letting them stay where they are is greater than their injury.

Wrapping it up....



Questions? Comments?

For more information about crime prevention...



- Contact the MSU Security Department at 389-2111.
- Visit the Partners in Safety website at www.mnsu.edu/safety
- Visit the MSU Security website at www.mnsu.edu/security