

Police to distribute tips during month of September in effort to urge responsibility

By WILLIAM OSBORNE JR.
Contributing Writer

This September marks the second annual National Campus Safety Awareness Month, a pilot program that involves 50 colleges and universities around the country in actively promoting safe, responsible behaviors on campus.

This is Vol State's first year in the program.

According to Campus Police Office Supervisor Lisa Lynch, the Vol State Police Department is sending out weekly e-mails this month outlining general safety tips for crises that can be utilized by anyone on campus.

These e-mails describe what actions to take in such an event as a fire; a bomb/terror threat; natural disasters; stalking (as well as what is defined as stalking); and cyber safety.

The police department is also providing an escort service for evening students.

According to Lynch, the police department received an e-mail from a student who expressed concern about dim lighting behind the Mattox Building near the handicapped parking.

Lynch said Vol State immediately responded, as she said work is being done "to provide more lighting to that area." Also new to Vol State is RAD (Rape, Aggression and Defense) which is "a basic class for physical defense," Lynch said.

National Campus Safety Month is sponsored by Securities On Campus, Inc.

"Security On Campus, Inc. is a national, non-profit organization whose mission is to prevent violence, substance abuse, and other crimes in college and university settings across the United States, and to compassionately assist the victims of these crimes," said Security On Campus Outreach Coordinator Megan Purcell.

According to Purcell, the first six weeks of college are particularly dangerous for campus communities.

"Security On Campus aims to reduce campus vulnerability during this time by offering creative and informative means to make students, administrators, and parents aware of dangers such as sexual assault, high risk drinking, fire safety, drug use, hate crimes, hazing, and internet safety," Purcell said.



Devin Holscher / Staff Photo

Lisa Lynch shares responsibility for coordinating safety tips that are sent out to students in weekly e-mails.

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