

# **CWU Safety and Emergency Preparedness**

## **Introduction**

Safety on the university campus is a natural source of concern for parents, students, guests and university employees. CWU recognizes this and employs a number of security measures to protect the members of its community. Although the area, with its small-town feel and neighborly attitude, is perceived to have a relatively low crime rate, crime prevention remains a high priority. Central's students, guests and employees share in the responsibility of making the CWU campus a safe place to study, work, visit and live.

## **Police Protection**

CWU provides full-service police protection to the campus community through its Department of Public Safety and Police Services, which operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The department employs 13 police officers, fully commissioned by the state of Washington that has the same arrest and investigative authority as other law enforcement officers in the state. The department has the primary responsibility for law enforcement on the CWU campus and works closely with all other law enforcement agencies. Officers patrol the campus 24 hours a day with an emphasis placed on crime prevention and education. The department encourages the prompt reporting of all crimes.

## **Emergency Telephone Number**

The on-campus emergency number, 911, directly connects any campus telephone with KITTCOM, the consolidated dispatch center for Kittitas County. 911 should be used when there is an emergency requiring a police, fire or medical response either on or off campus. In non-emergency situations requiring a police, fire or medical response, KITTCOM should be contacted by dialing (509) 925-8534. This number is also published in the university telephone directory, the Ellensburg Telephone directory and posted on Emergency Procedures postings throughout the campus.

Outdoor emergency telephones are located at the entrances to residence halls. "Blue-light" emergency telephones are installed in or adjacent to many parking lots and walking paths throughout the campus. Each phone has an emergency button and a two-way speaker that directly connects to KITTCOM.

## **General Security Procedures**

The CWU campus is well lighted and further improvements in campus lighting are continually being made, including the placement of high intensity metal halide or sodium vapor lights on buildings, in parking lots, in areas with heavy landscaping and along sidewalks and pathways frequently traveled by students, employees and visitors. CWU students, employees and guests may have access to academic, recreational and administrative facilities on campus. The general public may attend cultural and recreational events on campus, with limited access to the facilities in which these events are scheduled.

The university trespass policy, enforced by university police and posted in all university housing, is as follows:

“Only those persons having legitimate business with Central Washington University, members of the university community and their invited guests, are permitted in this

building. The university reserves the right to exclude all persons not conforming to acceptable behavior from these premises. Those who disregard this warning are to be considered in violation of criminal trespass under RCW 9A.56.040 and are liable for prosecution”.

University police officers may serve verbal or written trespass notices on nonmembers of the university community present on campus at their discretion and may make immediate arrests of persons in secure areas for which they have no legitimate business.

Firearms and dangerous weapons of any type are not permitted in the residence halls or other university facilities including inside vehicles parked on campus. Provisions for storage of firearms can be made with university police for short-term purposes, such as hunting off campus in approved areas. Strict sign-in and sign-out procedures are followed. For more information contact the University Police business line, 963-2959.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

CWU has a comprehensive emergency management plan for handling critical incidents. Central’s plan is built around an “all hazards” approach with its key component being an Incident Command System (ICS). CWU’s plan is part of the coordinated response to emergencies in Kittitas County. The fire departments, police departments and other first responders train together in a unified command structure to address major incidents including incidents that could occur on campus. The CWU Emergency Management Plan was reviewed and updated in 2006 and again in 2007. The plan allows CWU to respond to an emergency or disruptive incident in a timely manner, providing the ability to stay ahead of the incident’s acceleration curve. Our incorporated contingency plans then bring about a safe and expedient resolution. The plan also networks campus leaders with emergency response personnel, which improves coordination and cooperation. During an incident, CWU’s Crisis Communication Plan, coordinated by University Relations, is a part of the overall emergency management plan and provides timely and sometimes critical information to students, employees and guests. While there are redundant methods of communication including the home page, [www.cwu.edu](http://www.cwu.edu), the CWU Emergency Line (509) 963-2345 is another method of receiving timely information about emergencies on campus. The CWU Emergency Management Plan is an on-line documents hosted by an off campus server. It is purposely not published on a web site because it contains sensitive response coordination information. Persons interested in additional information about the CWU Emergency Management Plan should contact Steve Ritterreiser, CWU Police Chief at (509) 963-2960.

### **The Individual's Responsibility**

Although CWU works hard to ensure the safety of all individuals within its community, students, employees and guests themselves must take responsibility for their own personal safety and that of their personal property. Simple, common sense precautions are the most effective means of maintaining personal security.

For example, although the CWU campus is well lighted and may appear safe, students walking across campus or in parking areas at night should do so in groups or in pairs.

Students or guests living in residence halls and apartments should keep their room doors locked at all times and should never prop open external doors. Guests in residence halls should be escorted by a resident at all times. Any security concerns should be reported to the university police at once.

Cars should be locked and parked in a well-lighted area with all valuable items removed or locked in the trunk. Students and employees should notify the university police of any individual present in a building or on campus who appears to have no legitimate business there or who arouses suspicion in any way.

For more information about safety on campus visit the Central Washington University Department of Public Safety and Police Services website at [www.cwu.edu/~police](http://www.cwu.edu/~police).

June, 2007