

University of Iowa Police Crime Prevention News

SPECIAL EDITION

Playing it Safe in Downtown Iowa City



In the last few weeks the Iowa City Police have responded to at least 3 reports of violence involving males exclusively. This special edition of the Crime Prevention News will provide some information to help enhance your safety while enjoying what downtown Iowa City has to offer. University administration is certainly concerned about any threats to the safety of our students and to the entire Iowa City population. While the University of Iowa Police continues to work with the Iowa City Police to respond to these and other crimes, we urge everyone to be vigilant and to adopt practices to enhance personal safety. Remember, everyone is involved in providing a safe community. If you witness fights, assaults or any type of criminal behavior, please call the appropriate police department. (ICPD (319) 356-5275 or UIPD (319) 335-5022.)

The University Police provide several safety related educational offerings to our UI community. We also have a fulltime Crime Prevention Specialist, Brad Allison – 335-5043, who conducts presentations and provides safety related materials; please visit our website. <http://www.uiowa.edu/~pubsfty/>

On weekends, downtown Iowa City receives the full

attention of the Iowa City Police. The University of Iowa Police are involved in monitoring the downtown area in three ways:

- University of Iowa Police officers assigned to downtown foot patrol when available
- University of Iowa Police officers assigned to regular shifts will, as circumstances allow, conduct walking tours of the downtown area
- University of Iowa Police will conduct mobile patrols downtown as part of their regular duties

Law enforcement officials say that male-on-male assaults do not usually involve complete strangers. The combatants most often have some connection, even if it's an encounter in an establishment earlier that evening. Alcohol is usually involved. That's why safety specialists urge everyone involved in an aggressive or hostile verbal confrontation to demonstrate their strength and simply walk away from the situation.

Police presence downtown and in other areas does deter individuals from engaging in criminal acts; however, because law enforcement cannot be in many places simultaneously, we want to remind students and others that safety is a shared responsibility.

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The UI Police would like to remind both males and females of the following:

- Do not walk alone late at night or early morning when it is dark in isolated areas. There is safety in numbers; make it a habit to walk with others.
- You will be safest in well lit areas where there are groups of people.
- Safety is a shared responsibility; take reasonable precautions to enhance your personal safety.
- Look and act confident while you are walking, be aware of your surroundings, trust your instincts and don't be concerned about appearing rude if you feel threatened.
- If you regularly jog or cycle vary your route and time. Stay on well lit roads and main paths with open spaces where you can see and be seen by other people. Avoid wooded areas and adjust your routine to daylight hours if possible.
- Recognize that the use of a cell phone or a personal stereo, such as an iPod, may distract you from paying attention to your surroundings and persons acting suspiciously.
- Avoid consuming alcohol or other substances that may impair your judgment or your ability to react to a confrontation.
- Let someone know when you are intending to leave and arrive at a particular destination.
- If you think someone is following you go to the nearest place where there are other people and/or a place that is well lit. If you have a cell phone call the appropriate Police Department for assistance: (ICPD (319) 356-5275 or UIPD (319) 335-5022. If you have speed dial capabilities, program these numbers into your cell phone. It is important to know your location when calling anyone for assistance so they know where to respond. Of course, in cases involving emergencies call 911.
- If someone tries to take your property from you remember, your physical safety is more important than any material object.
- Avoid getting involved in confrontations, verbal or physical; rather, remain calm and walk away. That last bullet can be particularly difficult for many males. Walking away from a situation that may lead to violence and serious injuries is a sign of wisdom, not weakness.

Although NITE RIDE is for women only, if a male approaches the NITE RIDE van and is concerned about their safety, the van driver will remain with that male and call a UI police officer to meet with that individual and address their concerns.

The University and Iowa City officials will continue to monitor these and other types of incidents toward the goal of developing strategies that will further enhance the safety of all. Please be concerned about your own safety, the safety of others and the reputation of your University of Iowa.

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NITE RIDE



384-1111

Late Night Transportation for Women

- NITE RIDE: A safe means of late night transportation for women only. We will not check IDs.
- The Downtown Route operates Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from 10:00pm until 3:00am
- The Downtown Route stages at Washington and Clinton streets.
- The Academic Route is operated Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights from 10:00pm until 3:00 am.

The Academic Route stages at the north side of the Main Library.

- You may call the NITE-RIDE Academic Route to request a ride. It will pick you up at any U of I building, parking lot or parking ramp, (with the exception of residence halls, and University Housing) and deliver you to any U of I building, parking ramp, or parking lot including Residence Halls, University Housing and apartments within the specified boundaries. NITE-RIDE is operated by full time Department of Public Safety guards.
- The phone number is 319-384-1111. If the van is not at the staging area, you may call to inquire how soon the van will return for a ride.
- The boundaries and delivery area are Summit St. to the east, University Housing (Hawkeye Campus) to the west, Highway 6 and Melrose Avenue to the south, and Highway 6/Park Road/Foster Road to the north.
- A map of the route in PDF format may be viewed at :
- <http://news-releases.uiowa.edu/2008/january/images/012308nite-ride-map.pdf>



Cambus Eastside Loop - Saferide: Late Night Transportation for both Men and Women

Cambus has been asked by the UI Student Government to re-establish an east side night transit service on Friday and Saturday nights. It will run from 11:00 P.M. to 2:13 A.M. on Fridays and Saturdays nights during the academic year. The bus will depart downtown every 20 minutes. The bus route will travel on East Jefferson street to South Dodge street, to East Burlington street, to South Clinton street, East Washington street and then to North Madison.

A map of the route in PDF format may be viewed at:

http://www.uiowa.edu/~cambus/ESL_SafeRide_Aug-09.pdf

