Safety Message- Spring 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As the spring semester gets underway, we wanted to update you on campus safety improvements and, once again, emphasize the need to call the Los Rios Police Department if you see something that concerns you. Over the past eighteen months, several incidents at CRC have resulted in updates to existing practices and increased focus on safety measures/practices on the main campus and the Elk Grove Center.

Beginning in fall 2021 with limited on-ground courses, numerous challenges have been encountered as employees and students return to campus, including situations with unhoused individuals. LRCCD properties are public properties and must be open to the public. The public includes unhoused individuals. The public can be present on campus as long as they do not disrupt campus operations (providing instruction or delivering student services). If an individual is disruptive, LRPD will ask them to leave. In addition, individuals entering space designated for the exclusive use of employees and students (for example, an employee break room or a classroom) will also be asked to leave. The campus is considered “OPEN” from 5:30 AM to 11:00 PM. The campus is “CLOSED” from 11:00 PM to 5:30 AM. Unauthorized individuals are not to be on the campus during that time period and will be asked to leave.

It is important to underscore that the unhoused population is a challenge not only for CRC/LRCCD but also for the country, California, Sacramento County, and the cities of Sacramento and Elk Grove. No public agency or local education agency has all the answers or solutions to the challenges presented by unhoused individuals. At the same time, CRC/LRPD is navigating this and other challenges by partnering with local educational agencies such as Elk Grove Unified Valley High School administration; public transportation entities such as Sacramento Regional Transit; and Sacramento Police Department and private security contractor, Members in Black (MIB) to ensure the safety of both employees and students. While MIB has been an important asset to CRC’s security presence, CRC cannot sustain the funding to keep this contract in place. LRPD is in the process of scheduling interviews for officers, campus safety officers (CSO’s) and campus patrol. The expectation is to hire several more security personnel in the very near future.

The safety and security of the CRC community is our highest priority. Below are some campus incidents and the strategies used by LRPD and CRC to address safety concerns and, in some cases, resolution.

* Response to an increased presence of unhoused individuals during the evening hours
	+ At the direction of President Bush, the MIB security company was hired to provide additional campus coverage.
* A pedestrian-involved hit-and-run incident occurred on campus.
	+ After a thorough investigation, LRPD identified and arrested a subject who was convicted of several charges and is currently incarcerated.
* Unwanted touching of individuals
	+ In September of 2023, LRPD arrested an individual for unwanted and unsolicited touching of several women.
* Restrict vehicle access to the interior of the campus
	+ This is a response to the Summer 2021 safety assessment.
	+ A bollard system was installed to restrict vehicle access to the campus quad area.
* Self-Safety Classes
	+ Self-defense class was offered during FLEX and are planned for the Spring semester for anyone who wants to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about how to fend off an attacker.
* Team Training for Major Incident
	+ The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will conduct team training and tabletop exercises this semester in case of a major incident on campus.
* Shelter in Place
	+ In the event of the need for Shelter in Place, every room that doesn’t have interior access to a restroom inside their building, now has access to a shelter in place [restroom kits](https://www.amazon.com/FUN-ESSENTIALS-Portable-Washable-FUN010/dp/B0B5911MC1/ref%3Dsr_1_3?dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.2KfB_HzPOCgLaE7KvAn2I9xMYlbxQByFpyOTU56lUyZNFxupQRMVsLF-GSicBqAW_BWC2hfZurQEtyHPadBBPurZFwzjqEV5yXQKTx6pz7Y26vOUZhO9ty-YpiGhK639HCwMyYpAuqhmVLddOboB0ZlEKO4zGvwwUgpfyi_cDemeM3XSU_8-Hh_lCbhMukiNIQzTwSxHMTo7CiJbYuKElWo_k-Hhn3ZL7xjxBu9o5mk.dJtgTyLxa1_ZiFfy1SIzJXOmTNV_GWMwGA7DWA1mMe8&dib_tag=se&keywords=FUN+ESSENTIALS+Portable+Toilet+Kit+For+Adults%2C+Pop+Up+Privacy+Tent%2C+X+Large+Camping+Folding+Toilet%2C+12+Toilet+bags%2C+12+pack+Liquid+Waste+Gel%2C+Washable+Foldable&qid=1705438457&sr=8-3).
* Evacuation Chairs
	+ The campus has purchased new evacuation chairs for all buildings with two or more floors. Training has already taken place on how to use this much-needed improvement.
* The Elk Grove Center Medeco key project will be in place this spring semester
	+ The Center will be on the same key system as the main campus, allowing staff members to lock their classrooms from the inside, removing the need to open doors to lock the door during an emergency.
* Effective July 1, 2024, a new state law (SB 553) requires the development, implementation, and maintenance of a comprehensive Workplace Violence Prevention Plan.
	+ LRCCD/CRC will ensure your feedback is solicited for the plan.

[Reporting a crime](https://police.losrios.edu/) is extremely important for the safety of our campus community. If you witness a crime or become a victim, please do not hesitate to report it. While there have been some unfortunate incidents on campus, we generally have a safe working and learning environment. To learn more about crime statistics on campus, please refer to the most recent Clery Report and check the Daily Crime Log on LRPD’s website ([Crime and Reporting | Los Rios Police Department](https://police.losrios.edu/crime-and-reporting)). The LRPD is working hard to ensure everyone’s safety, but we need your assistance. Your cooperation in reporting any suspicious activity can help us maintain a secure campus environment.

Remember, if you **See Something, Say Something.** LRPD simply can’t do their job if they don’t know when something happens. [Call LRPD](https://police.losrios.edu/about-los-rios-police-department/dispatch-center) right away (916-558-2221, press “0”) if you see something that concerns you or if you have been a victim of a crime on campus.

We are all responsible for the safety of our college community, and we are asking each of you to support that effort. Get involved. If you have questions about overall safety, attend the [Health & Safety Committee](https://employees.crc.losrios.edu/governance/participatory-governance-council/resources-committee/health-and-safety) meetings.

Thank you to each one of you for caring about our students and each other. We look forward to a good semester!

LRPD CRC – VP Administration

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