SAFETY TIPS

WHAT YOU ARE LEGALLY ENTITLED TO WHEN RENTING:
- Your landlord must provide deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- If you would like any additional upgrades for security purposes such as an alarm, extra lighting, or bars on the windows, you must first consult with your landlord and generally you will be responsible for the cost of upgrades.

WHEN SEARCHING FOR A PLACE TO LIVE LOOK FOR THE FOLLOWING:
- Ask the current residents and neighbors if they feel like the area is a safe place to live.
- Are the areas outside the building well lit, particularly from the parking areas to the entrance?
- Is there an additional security presence at the residence? If so is it a substantial presence?
- How far away is emergency assistance if it is needed?
- Do all the windows have locks and are these locks sufficient?
- You may find our Local Area Profiles handout a helpful resource when familiarizing yourself with the surrounding communities

TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF THEFT OR BURGLARY:
- Arrange a security survey of your property with the Prince George's County Police Department's Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) to highlight potential security risks. Contact the COPS program coordinator at (301) 909-7126 for more information.
- Secure your valuables. Make sure you don’t leave valuables outside of your residence.
- Keep doors locked at all times.
- Be sure that windows are closed and locked when you leave the home.
- Invest in additional security such as an alarm or dog. If not, put up dummy security or “Beware of dog” signs.
- Don’t leave boxes for high value goods visible in your trash (e.g., computer, electronic equipment).
- If you or your roommates will not be in the home for an extended period of time, have someone collect your mail and newspapers.
- Avoid having large groups of strangers in your home.
- Don’t leave valuables unattended in public places.
- Stay away from areas with high theft rates.
- Avoid overly crowded areas where it is easy to be pick pocketed.

TO AVOID BEING ROBBED:
- Don’t walk alone at night if you can avoid it.
- Use services such as N.I.T.E. Ride, Shuttle-UM, and police escorts as alternatives to walking alone.
- Avoid isolated locations near high crime areas.
- Don’t walk around while heavily intoxicated.
- Don’t show off valuables such as cell phones, PDA’s, or cash unnecessarily.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS:
Emergency Fire Rescue and Police.................................911

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS:
Prince George's County Police...............................(301) 352-1200
University of Maryland Police...............................(301) 405-3555
Maryland State Police........................................(301) 345-3101
Maryland Park Police..........................................(301) 731-0054
Metro Transit Police.........................................(202) 962-2121
Poison Center......................................................(800) 492-2414
Animal Control & Shelter.....................................(301) 780-7200

HOSPITALS:
University Health Center.................................(301) 314-8185
Prince George’s Hospital................................(301) 618-3162
Washington Adventist Hospital......................(301) 213-4976
Doctors Community Hospital.........................(301) 306-9180
Laurel Regional Hospital.................................(301) 725-4300
Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring.............(301) 754-7000

TRANSPORTATION NUMBERS:
N.I.T.E Ride.......................................................(301) 314-6483
Transportation Services............................................(301) 314-7275