



FPD

Farmville Police Department

"To provide a safe and secure community through excellence in public service."

A BASIC GUIDE FOR CRIME PREVENTION AND SAFETY

General

1. Be aware! Be cognizant of your surroundings.
2. Report all suspicious persons, vehicles and activities to the Farmville Police Department immediately by dialing 911 from any phone.
3. Use the "buddy system" and watch out for your neighbor.
4. If you see someone being victimized, get involved and notify the Police Department.

Walking

1. Avoid traveling alone at night.
2. Confine walking to well-lit, regularly traveled walkways and pathways. Avoid shortcuts and keep away from shrubbery, bushes, alleyways, or any other areas where an assailant might be lurking.



3. Avoid using the athletic fields and tennis courts as shortcuts after dark . unless there are events scheduled there.
4. Do not accept rides from casual acquaintances.
5. When walking to your vehicle or residence, have your keys ready in hand.
6. When being dropped off by taxi or private vehicle, ask the driver to wait until you get inside.
7. When getting out of a car, take a look around to make sure that you are not being followed.

8. Keep your cell phone handy, but avoid focusing on it while walking. Keep your head up and be alert . You make yourself vulnerable when focused on it. Bad things can happen when you focus on your phone instead of what you are doing , **ESPECIALLY WHEN WALKING OR DRIVING !!**



Driving

1. Do not pick up hitchhikers.
2. Whenever possible, limit traveling to well-lit, well-traveled roads.
3. Keep your windows closed and doors locked.
4. When stopped at traffic lights or stop signs, keep your vehicle in gear. If threatened, sound your horn and drive away as soon as possible.
5. Avoid stopping in poorly lit, out-of-the-way places.
6. If you think you are being followed, keep out of isolated areas. Look for a place where there are people, then stop and let the vehicle pass you.
7. If the vehicle continues to follow, drive to the nearest location where you can get assistance, i.e., gas stations, shopping centers, police or fire station, etc.
8. If you are followed into your driveway or parking lot, stay locked inside your vehicle until you can identify the occupants of the vehicle. If threatened, sound your horn until you attract attention or the vehicle leaves.
9. When parking at night, choose well-lit areas. Before getting out of your vehicle, check for people loitering.
10. Always remove your ignition keys. Lock the vehicle whenever it is unattended.
11. Before entering your vehicle, always check the interior, paying particular attention to the floor and rear seat.
12. **LEAVE YOUR CELL PHONE ALONE WHILE DRIVING!**



Rape/Sexual Assault

You are encouraged to immediately report any incidents of this nature by dialing 911 even if you do not wish to pursue the matter further. Keep in mind that an assailant who is allowed to go free is a potential future danger, not only to you but also to other members of the community.

When you report a rape or sexual assault, you may choose to file charges through the Commonwealth Attorney's office or not at all. If you choose to file charges, the Police Department will assist you in every way, but no action will be taken without your expressed consent.

Every situation will be different. Therefore, we cannot provide any specific rules as to what to do or not to do if you are faced with a threat. Only you can make the determination as to the appropriate course of action.

If you think you are being followed, you can call out for assistance and run to a lighted building or residence; enlist the assistance of a passerby or flag down a passing vehicle, or pull a fire alarm. Do anything that might attract attention or summon assistance.

There are many services available to victims of rape and sexual assault, and you are encouraged to use all support services. The Farmville Police Department works with the Prince Edward County Victim / Witness Program to assist those affected by assaults and sexual battery as well as those that witness such crimes.



Protect Your Property

Larcenies are crimes of opportunity and occur primarily when property is left in unlocked or in unattended areas. In an attempt to alleviate this problem, the Farmville Police Department makes the following suggestions:

Residence halls and private residences

1. Keep the door(s) to your room or residence and windows locked at all times.
2. Never sleep in an unlocked room or house.
3. Do not put your name or address on key rings.

4. Do not keep your room or residence and vehicle keys on the same ring.
5. Do not study in poorly lit or secluded areas.
6. Require callers to identify themselves before opening your door. Off - campus residents should require official identification from all repair or service personnel.
7. If you receive obscene or harassing telephone calls, or several calls with no one on the other end, immediately notify the Farmville Police Department .
8. If you find that your home or room has been entered, **DO NOT GO INSIDE**. Go to a neighbor and call the Farmville Police Department. If you are already inside, **DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING**. You may disturb evidence that is important to the police investigation.
9. If an intruder awakens you in your room, do not try to apprehend them. They may be armed or may easily arm themselves with something inside the room. If they pose an immediate threat, get out of the room.
10. If you see a suspicious person or vehicle in your neighborhood, **IMMEDIATELY** contact the Farmville Police Department . Try to get the license plate number.
11. Students in private residences should consider installing "peep holes" and intruder chains on outside doors. Also, if returning after dark, leave a light on at the entrance to your residence.
12. Do not allow strangers to follow you into your home or room.



Motor Vehicles

1. Report all suspicious persons or vehicles around parking areas to the Farmville Police Department immediately.
2. Keep your vehicle locked and the windows rolled up tightly.
3. Never leave your vehicle running when unattended.
4. When parking, choose a well-lit, heavily traveled area.
5. Packages, luggage, and other valuables should be locked in the trunk.
6. Keep spare keys in your wallet or purse, not inside the vehicle where a thief can easily find them.
7. Consider the installation of anti-theft devices such as alarm systems.
8. Keep a record of your vehicle identification number (VIN), registration plate number, and title certificate number.

Bicycles

1. Invest in a good U-Bar bicycle lock.
2. Always lock your bicycle. Bicycles should be locked around the frames to an object such as a telephone pole, sign or lamppost, bicycle rack, etc.

3. Whenever possible, keep your bicycle in your residence . If you must leave your bicycle outside, choose a well-lit, heavily traveled location.
4. Find out if your bicycle is covered under your parents' insurance policy or a renter's insurance policy. If not, it would be advisable to insure it.
5. Longwood students can register their bicycles at the LU Policew Department by taking it by and having a photo taken as well as documenting the serial number to be kept on file.

Crime Prevention

The Farmville Police Department's crime prevention programs are geared to residents and students to make everyone aware that crime does occur in our area. Crime Prevention in The Town of Farmville requires involvement for it to succeed. The ultimate goal of our department is to provide a safe and secure environment for the residents and visitors to the Town of Farmville. If you have information concerning a crime or wish to know more about our programs, contact us at (434) 392-2109 .

What You Can Do

Your involvement is essential to the prevention of crime in our area. Disinterest and complacency are the prime contributors to the success of crime. The burden of crime prevention rests not only with the Farmville Police Department but also with each member of the community.

Police officers cannot be everywhere at once and are, therefore, dependent upon you to recognize and report incidents of suspicious and criminal activity. The extent of your cooperation will greatly influence our effectiveness in combating crime. Doing your part means:

1. Being aware of your vulnerability and following the suggestions outlined in this guide to protect yourself and your property.
2. Being alert for suspicious or criminal activity and conditions that may represent a hazard to the community.
3. Getting involved by becoming more security conscious and by reporting all incidents of suspicious or criminal activity, no matter how insignificant they may seem, to the Farmville Police Department immediately.

Remember that unreported crimes cannot be solved and that, by not reporting crimes, you allow the perpetrators to commit additional and perhaps more serious crimes. Many times crime solving depends upon how accurately and promptly the incident is reported.

It is important that you be able to provide as much of the following information as possible:

1. The nature of the incident.
2. When and where the incident occurred.

3. Number of persons involved (names, sex, race, age, height, hair style/color complexion, distinctive characteristics, i.e. facial features, scars, physical defects, glasses, clothing, etc.).
4. Direction and method of travel.
5. Vehicles involved (color, type, make, model, license plate number and state, distinctive characteristics, i.e., decals, bumper stickers, damage, number of occupants, etc.).
6. Description of stolen property (item, manufacturer, model number, serial number, value, color, dimensions, etc.).
7. Any other applicable information.

When an incident occurs in the areas on or around the campus that may impact security and /or safety , the university's Emergency Alert System will be activated. You can sign up for these alerts at www.longwood.edu/crisiscomm .

During the upcoming weeks , officers from the Farmville Police Department will be in the neighborhoods surrounding the Longwood campus to speak with students, tenants, and local residents concerning issues facing these neighborhoods. From speaking with students and residents in the past, some of the things that cause the biggest tensions in the neighborhoods are parking issues , increased traffic, and loud noise. We want you to enjoy your college experience as well as be contributing members of the community. We also want you to take responsibility for yourselves and your friends. One of the complaints we get from students in off-campus housing is in regard to unwanted subjects at their social events. If you are planning a social event off-campus, it would serve you well to designate someone to check students id's at the door to the event. This will help you to control the amount of people in the residence at one time (some renters will have clauses in their leases preventing over a certain number of people being in the residence at one time- check your individual lease agreements for such restrictions) and help you keep unwanted subjects out of your events. These are things you can do to help make sure that your friends can enjoy the events and remain as safe as possible while having a good time.

