

January 29, 2015

SHSU PD: Timely Notification - Provides Safety Tips and Contact Information

by Kevin Morris, Chief of Police, SHSU Police Department

The Sam Houston State University Police Department received two reports of sexual assaults that occurred in campus housing complexes between January 23, 2015 and January 29, 2015. In both instances, the victim (a female university student) knew the suspect prior to the reported incident. The first incident was reported by a Campus Security Authority, and the victim wished to remain anonymous. The second incident was reported to our department by the victim. At this point in the department's investigation, the facts do not suggest an ongoing threat to the University community; however, we would like to take this opportunity to share some personal safety precautions.

The University Police Department personnel would like to remind students to be aware of their surroundings, know their limits concerning sexual activity, communicate those limits clearly with their partner, and avoid excessive use of alcohol and drugs (at parties or other functions always obtain your own drinks). Lastly when asked to stop or being told no, don't make assumptions or presume other meanings, and don't assume that prior permission for sexual contact applies to the current situation.

We encourage students not to walk across campus alone, especially during the night time hours (safety in numbers). If you must go to and from campus alone, let your friends know of your activities (when you are leaving, where you are going, and when you plan to return). Also, students should take advantage of the University Police Department's Escort Services. Contact 936-294-1794 to schedule an escort, and our employees will meet with you at a campus location and walk with you to your destination on campus. The University Police Department has programs dealing with personal safety for any size group and can be arranged by contacting our department.

If you are a victim of sexual assault please get to a safe place. Contact a friend, a resident assistant, hall director, or family member to be with you. Call the police since a crime has been committed. Please do not bathe, douche, or change clothes. In doing this, you may be destroying critical evidence that is needed. The University will assist and/or provide our students with the counseling and other victim related services. If you choose not to seek police intervention, please go to a hospital emergency room for medical care.

Contacts:

University Police Department 936-294-1794 | Emergency 936-294-1000 or call 911
Dean of Students Office 936-294-1785 for Student Judicial Process
Title IX Coordinator Jeanine Bias 936-294-3026 or jbias@shsu.edu
University Counseling Center 936-294-1720 | Huntsville Police Department 936-291-5480
Huntsville Memorial Hospital 936-291-3411 | SAAFE House 936-291-3369
Walker County District Attorney's Office 936-435-2441
SAAFE House Contact Information 936-291-3369