

**10.**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT**

## **Introduction**

This Public Safety Element includes Goals, Objectives and Policies that apply only to the main campus in Gainesville unless specifically stated otherwise. Although some policies address the Alachua County Satellite Properties, these locations and are addressed through interlocal agreements with the individual host local governments.

By providing a safe environment on the University of Florida campus, students, faculty, staff and visitors are able to fully benefit from the teaching, research and extension offered. A safe and secure environment respects diversity in social, cultural and academic values, and allows those values to develop and prosper.

**University Police Department.** The mission of the University of Florida Police Department (UPD) is to preserve a safe, secure campus environment where diverse social, cultural and academic values are allowed to develop and prosper through a combination of reactive, proactive and educational law enforcement services. The department provides a full range of police services including, but not limited to, investigating all crimes committed in its jurisdiction, making arrests, providing crime prevention and community service programs, victim services, enforcing traffic laws, and providing crowd control and safety functions for campus special events. The department maintains a close liaison with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in implementing and coordinating campus law enforcement operations. The department has mutual aid agreements with the Gainesville Police Department (GPD) and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ASO). The UPD maintains very close working relationships with the Dean of Students Office, Department of Housing and Residence Life, Student Judicial Affairs, Student Government, Office of Sorority and Fraternity Affairs, Facilities Services Division, Transportation and Parking Services, University Counseling Center, Wellness Center, and many other campus and non-campus organizations.

**Environmental Health and Safety Office.** The Environmental Health and Safety Office (EH&S) also has a role in preserving public safety on campus by the use and safe disposal of chemicals, biological agents and radioactive materials. Compliance with building and fire code requirements is assured by the EHS operated building codes program.

**Department of Emergency Management.** The university's Department of Emergency Management's mission is building and sustaining a comprehensive, all-hazards approach by providing the institution with a framework of preparedness through prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. The Department fulfills the Florida Board of Governors Regulation 3.001 requiring the development and maintenance of an emergency management program and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the University. These university-wide emergency planning efforts are coordinated with emergency planning activities of Alachua County and the City of Gainesville as well as other communities where the university has a presence. The University is a signatory of the Florida Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

**On-campus Emergency Response.** The UPD also assists in coordinating on-campus fire alarm response. For all campus locations, a UPD officer is dispatched upon receipt of a fire alarm. If the officer can determine in a limited time period that the alarm activated falsely, then our police dispatch will not place a call to the Gainesville Fire Rescue department. The delay between

alarm activation and issuance of the notice for emergency forces assistance is limited to that allowed by the Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) criteria. As specified in this code, the University provides immediate notification to emergency forces for alarms in housing and medical units. The UPD and EH&S Office work together on the university's alarm analysis and action function. The fire safety unit located in EH&S receives the same alarm activation information as the police dispatch unit. An activation analysis report is obtained for all alarm activations. This information is analyzed to determine frequency and cause of activation. This allows the university to separate alarm system maintenance needs from those activations resulting from human tampering/malicious actions and in turn initiate the appropriate mitigation action.

**Goal 1: Preserve a Safe and Secure Campus Environment.**

***Objective 1.1: To participate with local, state and federal agencies in public safety programs including, but not limited to, law enforcement and emergency management.***

**Policy 1.1.1:** The University shall maintain existing mutual aid agreements with the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Sheriff's Office, and participate in other interlocal agreements as necessary to address law enforcement, emergency services and fire protection.

**Policy 1.1.2:** The University shall continue to participate in the Alachua County Local Hazard Mitigation Strategy Work Group, Alachua County Emergency Response Team, and other similar multi-agency coalitions as may be required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State of Florida.

**Policy 1.1.3:** The University shall remain a signatory of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

**Policy 1.1.4:** The University shall continue to maintain policies for the role of the campus judicial system in addressing off-campus conduct offenses within the parameters of applicable state law.

~~**Policy 1.1.5:** The University shall continue to provide a voluntary residential inspection program to provide prospective off-campus renters with information on residential rental properties and units that have voluntarily agreed to be inspected on the basis of the Community Safety Guidelines (i.e. as developed and maintained through a partnership with the Gainesville Apartment Association, Alachua County, ASO, GPD, UPD and UF Student Government).~~

**Policy 1.1.56:** The University shall continue to serve as the primary responder for security alarms at the Alachua County Satellite Properties and shall respond as the agency of primary jurisdiction for the main campus. The University shall enter into agreements as necessary with the host local governments to assure clarity in response assignments.

**Policy 1.1.67:** The University shall continue to provide development site plans to the Gainesville Fire Rescue Department for a courtesy review of those construction projects with unique fire response access considerations.

**Objective 1.2:** *To provide safe facilities and public safety programs to the university population that reduce vulnerability to crime, threats and hazards, and other emergency events.*

**Policy 1.2.1:** The University shall continue to provide policies, procedures and rules to address law enforcement and other public safety requirements.

**Policy 1.2.2:** The University shall continue to strive to maintain a low volume of all fire calls through preventive measures, public education, an expanded response role for UPD, and investigation and corrective action for false alarms that occur.

**Policy 1.2.3:** The University Police Department shall continue to provide community service programs to educate the university population (i.e. students and employees) on issues of crime and personal security. Such programs shall be provided through a variety of venues, including but not limited to orientation, special events and programs coordinated with the Department of Housing and Residence Education.

**Policy 1.2.4:** The University Police Department shall continue to provide victim assistance services in coordination with services of the Dean of Students Office, Counseling and Wellness Center of the University of Florida and other non-university agencies.

**Policy 1.2.5:** The University Police Department shall continue to provide free bicycle registration and support for bicycle safety programs.~~free bicycle registration and a bicycle driver improvement program~~

**Policy 1.2.6:** The University Police Department shall continue to provide an annual campus safety publication that includes crime statistics as required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and the Campus Crime Statistics Act.

**Policy 1.2.7:** The Environmental Health and Safety office shall continue to oversee management of hazardous materials, building and occupational safety.

**Policy 1.2.8:** UF Department of Emergency Management shall be responsible for facilitating a comprehensive, all-hazards approach by providing the institution with a framework of preparedness through prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery in coordination to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from threats and hazards, while coordinating with the Emergency Operations Team and Disaster Plan Committee.

**Policy 1.2.9:** The University shall provide adequate space and facilities for public safety, particularly to meet the needs of the University Police Department, Department of Emergency Management, and Environmental Health and Safety Office.

**Policy 1.2.10:** The University Police Department and Facilities Services shall continue to monitor the blue light emergency phone system and provide new phones or upgraded services as needed in coordination with the Planning Design and Construction Division and Student Government.~~The University Police Department, Physical Plant Division, Transportation and Parking Division, Environmental Health and Safety Office and Student Government shall continue to monitor the blue light emergency phone system and provide new phones or upgraded services as needed.~~

**Policy 1.2.11:** The University shall continue to provide educational training for faculty, staff and

students related to diversity and sexual harassment.

**Policy 1.2.12:** The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs shall continue to manage the University's Crisis Response Team.

**Policy 1.2.13:** The University shall continue to assess, manage and monitor the wooded areas on Alachua County Satellite Properties with strategies including, but not limited to, controlled burns, fire breaks, building setbacks and access roads to reduce the potential for or impacts of wildfires as applicable.



