

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN



2013 (Including Stats from 2011 and 2012)

Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report

**Mississippi University for Women
Campus Security and Fire Safety
Procedures and Policies**

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Welcome. Mississippi University for Women (MUW) works to maintain a safe and secure campus and to protect your property by providing full police and environmental safety services through the Police Department and by sharing information you can use to reduce your chances of becoming a crime or accident victim. An informed community is a safer community.

Each year, MUW publishes the Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report which includes crime statistics, fires on campus, injuries and property damage. It also outlines MUW security policies and procedures. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this report so you can become an informed member of our community and contribute to the University's effort to create and maintain a safe environment in which we can live, study, and work. Remember: Always use good safety sense and do not hesitate to contact the Police Department (MUWPD) whenever you need assistance or more information about the services we provide.

Danny Patton
Chief of Police
MUW Police Department



A Report of the Three Most Recent Year's Crime and Fire Statistics

In accordance with the federal regulations of the Campus Security Act, MUW publishes crime, fire and security-related policies and procedures for the three most recent calendar years. This information is distributed each year to enrolled students and current employees and is also made available to prospective employees and students. The University's Student Handbook, Policies and Procedures Guidelines and Right-to-Know information informs our prospective and current students, faculty and staff about the general procedures for reporting crimes both on and off campus. It also includes tips on preventing thefts of property and crimes of violence, including physical and sexual assaults.

In compliance with the 1998 amendments to the Campus Security Act (now known as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act) and Department of Education regulations, the crime and fire statistics published in this report illustrate:

1) the reporting of crime categories as specified below, 2) the reporting of specified hate crimes by category of prejudice against the victim (race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability) a 3) the reporting of violation arrests and referrals to campus disciplinary action as specified below. Each of these statistical categories is further broken down by geographic area: **On-Campus** (includes **On-Campus Residential** facilities), **Non-Campus** property; and **Public Property** (includes property within campus or immediately adjacent to it), 4) the reporting of fires, death/injuries and property damage.

The University Police Department makes annual requests to the Columbus Police Department for crime statistics taken from the **public areas** within campus or immediately adjacent to the campus to be included in the Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report.

The Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report includes crime statistics for the following *categories of crimes*, as reported to the MUW PD and local law enforcement: homicide (murder, non-negligent and negligent manslaughter); sex offenses (forcible, non-forcible); robbery; aggravated assault; burglary; motor vehicle theft; and arson. Also included are statistics for the following categories of **violations arrests and referrals for campus disciplinary action**: liquor law violations, drug law violations, and illegal weapons possession violations.

Procedures

Reporting On-Campus Crimes and Other Emergencies

To maximize safety on campus, the MUW PD strongly encourages anyone with knowledge about any crime, suspicious activity or unsafe actions or conditions on campus (either as a witness or as a victim) to make an immediate report to the MUW PD in person or by phone. Reporting does not mean you must take legal action but it may help police officers stop further incidents as well as help them keep the community informed about criminal activity.

To make a report in person, go to the MUW PD, located in McDevitt Hall. To make a report by phone, call 662-241-7777 and describe the situation to the dispatcher. In emergency situation, including fires and medical emergencies, call 911. All 911 calls made from campus will go to the Lowndes County 911 Dispatch Center and the dispatcher on duty will contact the MUWPD dispatcher. It is best to contact 911 first and then, call 662-241-7777.

MUW students requiring non-emergency care may contact the Student Health Center at 662-329-7289. Students seeking counseling services may contact the Counseling Center at 662-329-7748.

MUW employees requiring non-emergency medical care may contact the Student Health Center at 662-329-7289 or Baptist Memorial Hospital at 662-244-1000. MUW employees who are victims of interpersonal relationship violence may contact the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 for counseling and advocacy. This line can also be used if you are the victim of dating violence and stalking.

MUW Police Response to a Crime Report

When you report a crime to the MUW Police Department, a MUW police officer will meet you, listen to what happened and if necessary, make a preliminary report. Next, an investigator will review the report and conduct a follow-up investigation. If a suspect is found and you decide to press charges, information will be presented to the District Attorney, who decides if there is a legal basis to arrest the suspect. If there is an arrest to be made, you will be asked to sign an affidavit and a warrant will be issued. Any Law Enforcement officer can serve the warrant. If the subject lives on campus, it will be best the warrant is served by MUW police officers. A court date will be set and you will have to be present to testify. (See also Crime Alerts/MUWPD Advisories).

If You Don't Want to Make a MUW Police Report and/or Take Legal Action

MUW encourages you to report criminal activity even if you don't want to take legal action in order to help us maintain accurate statistical records. The University Police is responsible for preparing the University's Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report and for compiling the crime and fire statistics included in the report. We would like to keep the community informed as much as possible. The information you report may require the MUWPD to issue a W Alert if they determine that the circumstances warrant such action. Also, see information below regarding another way in which to make a voluntary confidential reporting of forcible and non-forcible sexual offenses.

Reporting Off-Campus Crimes and Other Emergencies

Victims or witnesses to criminal activity occurring off campus should contact the agency that has jurisdiction:

- ◆ Columbus Police Department at 911
- ◆ Lowndes County Sheriff Department at 911

University Police officers can assist in notifying other law enforcement agencies.

Additional Sources of Statistical Information

Consistent with the U.S. Department of Education federal regulations, the MUWPD has developed, and periodically reviews, procedures to include in campus statistics, reports of required crimes made to the following campus security authorities: the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, student organization advisors, and the Office of Housing and Residence Life (including residential hall advisors).

Voluntary Confidential Reporting (Procedures)

If you are the victim of a crime and do not want to pursue action within the University System or the criminal justice system, you may still want to consider making a confidential report. With your permission, the Chief or a designee of the MUWPD can file a report on the details of the incident without revealing your identity. The purpose of the confidential report is to comply with your wish to keep the matter confidential, while taking steps to ensure future safety of yourself and others. With such information, the University can keep an accurate record of the number of incidents involving students, determine where there is a pattern of crime with regard to a particular location, method, or assailant, and alert the campus community to potential danger. Reports filed in this manner are counted and disclosed in the annual crimes statistics for the institution.

Confidential Reporting to Pastoral and/or Professional Counselors

Under the law, campus pastoral and professional counselors, when acting as such, **are not** considered to be a campus security authority and **are not** required to report crimes for inclusion in the annual disclosure of campus crime statistics. As a matter of policy; however, Mississippi University for Women encourages its counselors, if and when they deem it appropriate, to inform the persons they are counseling of procedures to report crimes on a voluntary, confidential basis for inclusion in the annual disclosure of crime statistics.

All verified and unverified confidential reports of sexual offenses that meet reporting criteria as determined by MUWPD and that are made to University staff are included in MUW campus crime statistics (see Prevention and Reporting of Sexual Assaults for more information about MUW policies and procedures concerning sexual offenses).

Crimes reported to counselors **are not** included unless the victim chooses to report to one of the other campus security authorities.

Policies

Safety and Access to Campus Facilities

The MUW campus is made up of a variety of facilities, residence halls, and academic/administrative buildings. Residence halls have entrance desks that are staffed during visiting hours. In the daytime, there is open access to academic and administrative buildings, with the exception of the Stark Recreation Center at which users must present membership, faculty or student identification cards. Academic and administrative facilities are locked before and after business hours. Students and staff who have access to administrative/academic buildings for after-hours work must lock the exterior doors behind them after they enter and they are encouraged to follow all personal safety precautions. If you have to study or work alone at night in a campus building, be sure a friend knows where you are and when you will return.

Campus Police Authority and Jurisdiction

MUW Campus Police have complete police authority to apprehend and arrest anyone involved in illegal acts on-campus and areas immediately adjacent to the campus. If minor offenses involving University rules and regulations are committed by a University student, the campus police may also refer the individual to the disciplinary division of Student Affairs.

Major offenses such as rape, murder, aggravated assault, robbery and auto theft are reported to the police. Investigators from MUW PD, the city police, and/or the county may be deployed to solve these serious felony crimes. The prosecution of all felony offenses and some misdemeanors are conducted at the Lowndes County Circuit Court. The prosecution of most misdemeanors is conducted at the Lowndes County Justice Court.

MUW PD provides full police and environmental safety services to the campus community. The University Police force consist of sworn officers with full arrest powers who are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are certified by the state of Mississippi. These officers are vested with all the powers, authority and responsibilities of any officer of the state on property owned or operated by the University and property immediately adjacent to campus. There are dispatchers for every shift that officers are working.

Code Blue Emergency Phones

Although the ultimate goal of our departments is to create a safe campus through initiatives and public cooperation, we recognize that emergencies occur and it is reassuring to know that help is a mere phone call away. Throughout our campus locations, there are 6 outdoor emergency phones strategically located on the campus walkways, near residence halls and university buildings and at or near parking areas. These communication devices are highly visible and provide a fully-contained emergency communication device for anyone in urgent need of help. These phones are to be used for **EMERGENCIES ONLY.**

The following locations have **Code Blue Emergency Phones:**

- Callaway Hall-662-241-6178
- Cromwell-662-241-6189
- Kincannon Hall-662-241-6176
- Martin Hall-662-241-6170
- Peyton Hall-662-241-6216
- Shattuck-662-241-7854

Timely Warnings

In the event that a situation arises, either on or off campus, that constitutes an ongoing or continuing threat, a campus wide “timely warning” will be issued. The warning will be issued through the University’s text messaging system to students, faculty and staff. In the event of inclement weather, the Chief of Police will be in constant contact with Emergency Management and will keep the University updated regarding inclement weather. Depending on the particular circumstances, **especially in all situations that could pose an immediate threat to the community and individuals**, a notice may be posted on the main page of the University Website providing the community with immediate notification. Anyone with information warranting a timely warning should report the circumstances to the MUW Police Department (662-241-7777) or in person to the dispatcher at the front gate.

Criminal Activity Off-Campus

When a student is involved in an off-campus offense, police officers may assist with the investigation in cooperation with local, state or federal law enforcement. Columbus Police and Lowndes County Sheriff’s Department routinely work and communicate with campus officers on any serious incidents occurring on-campus or in the immediate neighborhood and business areas surrounding campus. MUW operates no off-campus housing, but has one facility, Plymouth Bluff. However, some students live in the neighborhoods surrounding MUW. While Columbus Police Department have primary jurisdiction in all areas off campus, MUW officers can and do respond to student-related incidents that occur in close proximity to campus. MUW officers have direct communication with the city police, fire department and 911 to facilitate rapid response to any emergency situation. MUW does not have any off- campus student organizations with off-campus housing.

MUW PD’s Working Relationship with State and Local Police Agencies

Mississippi University for Women Police Department cooperates fully with other law enforcement agencies in cases that involve both on and off campus jurisdictions or when resources of an agency other than the MUWPD can be used to facilitate the resolution of an investigation. Local police agencies and MUWPD exchange information on a regular basis and work together during campus and community events.

Prompt and Accurate Reporting of Crimes

As noted in the sections *Reporting On-Campus and Other Emergencies* and *Reporting Off-Campus Crimes and Other Emergencies*, the MUWPD encourages anyone with knowledge of a crime on or off campus to report it. In order to maximize safety on campus and aid prompt investigations, we ask that you report to the MUW PD incident or crime.

Reporting a Missing Student

The term “missing student” is defined as any MUW student residing in an on-campus student housing facility who is reported missing from his or her residence. Reports of missing students should be made to representatives of any of the following: the MUW PD (662-241-7777), Vice President for Student Affairs (662-329-7129), Director of Student Life (662-241-6974), or Director of Housing and Residence Life (662-329-7127). Whenever a MUW student is believed to be missing, the University will initiate steps to locate him or her or to determine why the student has not been seen. Students are under no obligation to notify the University of plans to spend time away from their residences; however, if circumstances indicate that an investigation is warranted, concerned parties should contact the Police Department. Upon notification, the Police Department will make inquiries within the University and beyond.

If the University determines that the circumstances of the missing student require a police investigation, the MUW PD will notify the local police and the sheriff's department. If the police determine that the student should be classified as a missing person, they will initiate their own investigation. The University will support their investigation by providing whatever technical support is appropriate, including notices, photos, schedules and any other information relevant to the search for the missing student.

Missing Student Contact Procedures

All students residing in on-campus student housing facilities have the option of identifying a contact person or persons whom the University will notify if the student is determined to be missing by the Police Department or local police department. The contact information will be confidential, accessible only to authorized campus officials and law enforcement and may not be disclosed except in a missing person investigation. When a student who resides in an on-campus student housing facility is determined to have been missing for 24 hours, the University will:

- Notify the contact person if the student has designated one, within 24 hours.
- Notify the student's custodial parent or guardian and/or other designated contact person within 24 hours if the student is under 18 years of age and is not emancipated; and
- Inform the local law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction in the area that the student is missing within 24 hours.

Security Awareness Programs

During student orientation sessions crime prevention programs are conducted by the MUW PD. The Chief of Police or his designee informs parents and students of crime prevention programs that are conducted on campus throughout the year. The police department also informs students about residence hall safety and neighborhood safety. Crime Prevention Programs and Sexual Assault Programs are offered on a continual basis.

Periodically during the year, the MUW Police Department, in cooperation with university organizations and departments, present crime prevention awareness sessions on theft and vandalism.

The most important thing that is stressed during these sessions is personal safety. Students are encouraged to look out for themselves and their fellow students. They are asked to be aware of their surroundings so that they will not become victims.

MUW PD offers crime prevention and personal safety programs.

- *Rape Aggression Defense (RAD)* is a nationally recognized comprehensive program focused on awareness, prevention and risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing to the basics of hands-on defense training for women only.
- *Refuse to Be A Victim* is NRA's personal safety and crime prevention seminar. |

Types, Frequency and Descriptions of Crime Prevention Programs

The University uses various mechanisms to inform students and employees about prevention of Crime.

- **Safety Presentations:** Addresses all issues of personal safety, including alcohol/drug awareness, prevention of sexual assaults and property crimes, travel safety tips, state/local laws, etc. Safety presentations, accompanied by brochures and other printed materials are made to the following groups:
 - **Parents of New Students**
 - **New Student Orientation**

- **Residence Hall Students**
- **Other Campus Groups or Organizations** - such as MUW employees, nursing students, students with disabilities, international students, student government and specific campus organizations.
- **Rape Awareness, Education and Prevention:** The Counseling Center provide programs on rape awareness, education and prevention. They have programs such as sexual assault awareness week, safe spring break week, National collegiate alcohol awareness week, suicide prevention week and Be Safe Week.
- **Crime Stoppers of Northeast Mississippi:** The MUW PD participates in the local Crime Stoppers program wherein callers may anonymously give information concerning crimes and receive money rewards for their help.
- **Community-Oriented Policing:** Upon request by University divisions, departments and organizations, MUW PD Officers attend meetings to provide up-to-date crime prevention information and to hear the concerns of University community members about crime and safety issues. These officers also offer safety programs in the community. University officers partner with the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs and other organizations to talk about making good decisions, mentoring and Conflict Resolution when requested.
- **MUWPD Website:** The MUWPD maintains website at <http://www.muw.edu/publicsafety> for quick and up-to-date information on police, fire safety and emergency procedures. The University is encouraged to take a few minutes to browse the site. If you have any questions or feel there needs to be more information on the website, call the MUW PD at 662-241-7777.
- **Community Awareness Programs:** Members of the MUW PD are active participants in University and community sponsored awareness programs, such as health fairs, job fairs, , and many other programs.

Summary of Alcohol, Drugs, and Firearms Policy

Alcohol

- A. No person may consume or possess any alcoholic beverages, containers, or bottles in the residence halls, or for student events in university buildings, or on any property or public location belonging to Mississippi University for Women.
- B. The possession, sale, distribution or furnishing of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in the residence halls, or for student events in university buildings, or any property or public building belonging to Mississippi University for Women.
- C. Students who behave in an intoxicated manner as a result of the use of alcohol or require staff assistance shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- D. The playing of games (or competitions) involving the use or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on the campus or at events sponsored or supervised by the university.
- E. Common source containers are prohibited in residence halls and on University owned property.
- F. Possession of any alcohol paraphernalia is prohibited.
- G. Empty alcoholic beverage containers (bottles, can, etc.) are prohibited in/on University owned or controlled property.

Drinking Age Law, Mississippi

Effective October 1, 1986, it is illegal for any person under the age of 21 to possess or be sold, given or furnished beer or light wine (Section 67-3-70, MCA, 1972). This law has serious consequences for persons who provide or sell beer and light wine to individuals under 21, as well as for underage drinkers.

Drug-free Schools/Campus

Mississippi University for Women acknowledges and adheres to the laws of the state of Mississippi. The University also complies with the Drug-Free schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989. In compliance with federal and state laws, at Mississippi University for Women, the following will apply:

Drugs

- A. The possession of any drug controlled by federal or state laws on or off campus is prohibited.
- B. In compliance with state and federal law, it is illegal to possess, consume, use or distribute (or intend to distribute or use) any drug controlled by federal or state laws on the campus of Mississippi University for Women or at events sponsored or supervised by the University.
- C. The manufacture, intent to manufacture, to furnish, or intent to furnish drugs controlled by federal or state law is prohibited.
- D. The sale, intent to sell, purchase, intent to purchase, deliver, or intent to deliver drugs controlled by federal or state law is prohibited.
- E. Possession or use of any drug related paraphernalia is also prohibited.
- F. The University reserves the right to initiate judicial action if drug violations occur on or off campus. Students found to be in violation of the drug policy will be subject to disciplinary action which may result in suspension or expulsion.
- G. Over-the-counter or prescription medications should not be used in any way except the manufactures intended purpose or as prescribed.

Firearms

The possession of any weapon on campus is of serious concern to the University. Under most circumstances, possession of a weapon is a violation of university policy and state law. Any individual found in possession of a weapon may be subject to arrest and confiscation of the weapon. Additionally, students, faculty, and staff may be subject to disciplinary action. The MUW PD does not store weapons. An individual living on-campus that wishes to have access to a weapon for hunting or other legal purposes must make arrangements to store the weapon off-campus. If you have any questions, contact the MUW PD at **662-241-7777**.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Education Information

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

The University has developed a program to prevent the illicit use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students and employees. The program provide services related to drug use and abuse including dissemination of informational materials, educational programs, counseling services, referrals and college disciplinary actions.

The Counseling Center conducts the following programs:

- o **Sexual Assault Week** - information provided to students regarding the reporting of sexual assault and the process victims will have to go through if they are sexually assaulted. This program ensures that victims know that they are not alone and that the University cares about their safety.
- o **Safe Spring Break Week** - information provided to students about safety when they go on Spring Break. Information is disseminated about being aware of your surroundings, not drinking and driving, always have friends with you at all times and do not carry large amounts of cash with you. Information is also give about date-rape drugs and not taking anything from strangers.

- **Suicide Prevention Week-** information provided to students about suicides and what they can do to get the help they need. Information regarding depression and how it leads to suicidal thoughts. Students are made aware of all the resources that are available to them.

Prevention and Reporting of Sexual Assaults

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact without the consent of all parties involved. Sexual contact is the intentional touching, whether with one's own body part, or an instrument or object, of the person of another, no matter how slight, in or on, an area of the body generally recognized as being a private part of the body; or the intentional touching of another person, no matter how slight, with one's own private body part anywhere on the other person's body. The amount or lack thereof, of clothing being worn by either person is of no consequence in determining whether a "sexual physical contact" has occurred, and the body part touched, or used to touch with, may be covered or clothed.

A. Definition of Consent

The University prohibits an individual from subjecting another person to any sexual contact without the consent of the other person. *Consent requires a clearly communicated agreement to engage in sexual activity.* Sexual assault may be committed by acquaintances, dating partners, spouses, family members or strangers. The individual consenting must act freely and voluntarily and have knowledge of the nature of the act involved. Any agreement to engage in sexual activity that is obtained through coercion, including the use of physical force, threat, intimidation or exploitation, is not consent. Consent may be withdrawn at any time regardless of the activity preceding the withdrawal of consent. A person may be deemed not to have knowingly and voluntarily consented if, at the time of the offense, the person is incapable of giving consent because of mental impairment or incapacitation, physical impairment, alcohol or drug consumption, or loss of consciousness.

The existence of an intimate relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent and consent may not be inferred from silence or passivity alone. A person who is unconscious cannot give consent. A person who is cognitively impaired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs may not be able to give consent if, because of the impairment, he or she is unable to understand the situation or its consequences, or is unable to express his or her consent or lack of consent.

The use of alcohol or drugs by either party in conjunction with a sexual assault does not alleviate responsibility or diminish the serious nature of the offense. When alcohol or drugs are involved, a victim will not be charged with an alcohol or drug violation and should not let his or her use of alcohol or drugs be a deterrent to reporting the incident.

B. Reporting Process

In responding to reports of sexual assault, the University's central purpose is to provide assistance and judicial action for any person, whether student, faculty, or staff member, who is sexually assaulted and to protect the University community from threat of further sexual assault.

The University strongly encourages individuals to report sexual assaults to the appropriate authorities, as this is the only way that action can be taken against the alleged assailant. Reporting is a separate step from choosing to prosecute.

Victims are encouraged to use the following procedure:

Report to the Police: Individuals are strongly urged to first contact the MUW PD (if assaulted on campus) or local police authorities (if assaulted off campus). MUW PD can

be reached by calling 662-241-7777 and local police can be reached by calling 911. MUW PD can assist in notifying local authorities.

Voluntary, Confidential Reporting of Sexual Offenses: Although victims of sexual offenses are not required to report offenses to the police, reporting is strongly encouraged. If an individual is entirely certain that they will not take legal action, they are encouraged to contact Counseling Services, 662-329-7748, which can confidentially receive information for inclusion in the crime statistics and can provide free, confidential counseling to the victim. Local news media may receive notice of sexual assaults reported to the MUW PD so that others are alerted; names of victims are not released; privacy is protected at all times. No pressure is placed on a sexual assault victim to report the attack if they choose not to report; victim's parents **will not** be notified without the victim's consent.

C. Medical and Counseling Support Services and Other Resources

It is very important for victims of sexual assaults to obtain immediate medical care following a sexual assault. Whether or not the sexual assault is reported, medical care will ensure the victim's wellbeing and the documentation, collection and proper preservation of physical evidence in the assault.

Medical Attention: In addition to care of obvious injuries, medical attention is needed to protect the victim from sexually transmitted diseases or the possibility of pregnancy. If you have been raped and might consider taking legal actions against the rapist, you need to receive medical care so that evidence of rape can be obtained and preserved for legal action. Without this evidence, the chances for successful prosecution are minimized. You should have the exam as soon as possible. You will need a change of clothes; the clothes worn during the assault will be kept as evidence. If you have already changed clothes, bring along any articles that may have blood or semen on them. In order to preserve physical evidence of the assault, victims should not change clothes, bathe, and douche or use the bathroom before seeking medical care.

Other Resources: Off-campus counseling and mental health services are provided by Baptist Behavioral Health, **662-244-1000**.

D. Procedures Followed After A Report Of A Sexual Offense Is Made To University Police

When a sexual assault is investigated, the victim may be unprepared for the lengthy, public process of bringing the perpetrator to justice. MUW PD and other involved officers respect the victim's feelings, but must also observe due process of law. The following outline of a sexual assault investigation can help victims of sexual assaults understand the process of the investigation.

Immediate Response to Report: After an assault has occurred and the victim contacts campus or city police, patrol officers will respond to the victim. The officers will help the victim arrange medical care at the emergency room where a doctor will counsel the victim, treat injuries and potential sexually transmitted diseases and preserve physical evidence of the assault.

Step One. The responding patrol officers, after receiving a brief description of what happened from the victim, will inform the appropriate police units and investigators. Officers will secure the crime scene and interview witnesses. Responding investigators will arrive to identify and preserve evidence at the crime scene and conduct additional interviews if necessary.

Step Two. When ready, the victim must provide a detailed statement of the assault to the investigators.

Step Three. Officers may ask the victim to try and identify the suspect from a photo or physical lineup.

Step Four. Investigators must gather enough evidence to establish “probable cause,” i.e., legal reason to arrest the suspect. When the evidence is ready, the investigators and victim will appear to meet with a Judge/Magistrate to ask for a warrant allowing the suspect’s arrest. If a warrant is granted, the suspect can be arrested and jailed. The suspect may not spend all of the time before a trial in custody; bail/bond can be provided for the defendant.

Step Five. There may be several judicial proceedings before an actual trial. For instance, a “preliminary hearing” may be held. This hearing, which is conducted before a judge, may require the victim to answer questions from the prosecuting attorneys and defendant’s attorney. The victim may also be asked to appear before the Grand Jury when it convenes to determine if the defendant is to be indicted. If the Grand Jury issues a “True Bill,” a trial will be scheduled.

Change of Residence Status/Campus Safety

If a student has been the victim of a sexual assault and is in need of a change of living conditions due to safety concerns, the student would need to contact the Director of Housing and Residence Life. The Director of Housing and Residence Life will examine the student’s situation and concerns in order for the change request to be granted. The student may be able to break their housing contract with the institution so that the student may be able to seek off-campus housing. The student may be required to pay all fees associated with the move.

Housing and Residence Life Staff works hard to provide the safest environment possible in the residence halls. In return, you are asked to take the time to think about your own personal safety by considering the policies and procedures outlined the *STUDENT HANDBOOK*.

Report all suspicious activity/behavior to the MUW PD and Housing and Residence Life Staff. MUW PD is located in McDevitt Hall and can be reached through the blue phones on campus or by calling (662) 241-7777.

- **Never lend your keys or ID card to anyone**
- **Never prop open or tamper with security locked doors**
- **Always lock your residence hall room and suite mate door when you leave.**
- **Never open a locked exterior door for anyone**
- **If you lose your keys or ID card, contact the MUW PD and Housing and Residence Life Staff immediately.**

Advising the Community About Sex Offenders

Upon release from prison, individuals convicted of sex crimes may be required to register with law enforcement agencies (under laws referred to as “Megan’s Laws”). If registered sex offenders are enrolled at or employed at a postsecondary institution, the offenders must also provide this information to the state. The information is then provided by the state to campus police departments or to other law enforcement authorities in the jurisdiction where the institution is located.

Mississippi Sex Offenders Registry

The State of Mississippi maintains a statewide sex offender registry. This web address allows you to search by county for sex offenders in the MUW and surrounding areas. Mississippi sex offender registry statute require all sex offenders to register. The sheriff of each county maintains sex offender registration

for that county and forwards it to the Department of Public Safety. To obtain Mississippi Sex Offender information, please go to the following web address: <http://state.sor.dps.ms.gov/>

University Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Process

The aim of disciplinary action is the redirection of student behavior toward the achievement of academic, community and student developmental goals. This Code of Conduct applies to all official university sanctioned activities including off campus programs.

The President has delegated this function to the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) or designee(s). It is the responsibility of the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee(s) to initiate, implement, and supervise the disciplinary process for students. MUW recognizes students as adults who are expected to obey the law and the rules and regulations of the University, to take personal responsibility for their conduct, to respect the rights of others, and to have regard for the preservation of state and University property, as well as the private property of others. Students whose conduct, whether on or off-campus, threatens to cause disorder, public disturbances, danger to themselves or others, or property damage will be disciplined. Those apprehended and proven guilty of violating the law or rules and regulations of the University may receive a maximum sanction of expulsion from the University.

Student Judicial Procedures

Disciplinary Responsibility

The Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) or designee is assigned the responsibility for disciplinary matters concerning the behavior of students, groups, and/or student organizations. When a disciplinary matter is reported to the VPSA office, it will be reviewed promptly. If there is a basis for charges, written notification will be sent to those involved outlining initiated proceedings. The rights of the victim are set forth in the student handbook.

Additional information regarding Student Judicial Procedures, including Hearing Procedures, Sanctions, and Appeals may be found in the Student Handbook. For more information, contact the Office of Vice President for Student Affairs, **662-329-7129**.

Fire Safety

The MUW PD works closely with Facilities Management as well as the Columbus Fire Department. The goal of the MUW PD and Columbus Fire Department is to educate MUW community about fire and life safety, to prevent fire emergencies and to reduce alarms.

Fire Statistics

In accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, Mississippi University for Women is providing mandatory fire safety information as part of this Annual Report. All reports of fires and fire alarms are maintained in a database within the MUW PD. Data collected includes, but is not limited to, the building name, alarm location, time and date, the number and cause of each fire, any and all injuries, any fatalities and dollar values for property damage by the fire.

Description of Student Housing Fire Systems

Every University student residence has:

- An interior alarm in each room, hallway and lobby areas. There are smoke and heat detectors. The detectors are auditory and visual with strobes/
- There is a yearly inspection of all fire alarms and sprinkler system and all fire suppression equipment all records of the tests are kept at Facilities Management.
- The fire alarm panel triggers a first alarm directly to the police department, who in turns, contacts the Fire Department.
- Sprinkler systems are in every residence hall.
- Columbus Hall and Grossnickle Hall have fire doors.

Fire Safety Policies and Procedures

Fire and Safety Equipment

The State Fire Code prohibits anyone from tampering with fire and safety equipment in the residence halls or in any campus building. Tampering includes pulling false fire alarms, discharging fire extinguishers, removing exit signs, and interfering with smoke detectors. Interference with smoke detectors mandates immediate attention. Students responsible will be assessed for damages and for the hourly rate of the repair person's labor. All violators are subject to disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution. The maximum civil penalty for malicious use of fire and safety equipment will be enforced.

Fire Drill Procedures

MUW residence halls are required to conduct periodic fire drills each semester. Failure to respond appropriately to fire alarms will necessitate the scheduling of additional drills and disciplinary action against the resident (s) involved. If a resident fails to respond to a fire alarm, he/she may incur a fine as well as be subject to further disciplinary action. Housing and Residence Life Staff and University Police reserve the right to enter student room to locate the source of the problem and to ensure that everyone has evacuated the building. The number of fire drills held the previous year was 12. Two fire drills per year are conducted by 6 residence halls.

In Case of Fire:

§ **SOUND THE FIRE ALARM**

§ **EVACUATE THE BUILDING**

§ **CALL 911 and THE MUW POLICE DEPARTMENT @ 662-241-7777.**

All Residence Life Staff are required to go through training. As part of these trainings, Housing and Residence Life Staff are educated on fire safety.

FIRE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Keep doorways, corridors and stairwells clear and unobstructed. Keep the fire doors closed.
- Make sure that all electrical appliances and cords are in good condition and UL approved.
- Do not overload electrical outlets. Use fuse-protected multi-outlet power strips and extension cords when necessary.
- Extinguish all smoking materials properly and thoroughly.
- Never store flammable substances in your room or apartment. Unauthorized use of candles and live holiday decorations are not permitted in University buildings.
- Be aware that transmitting a false alarm is a criminal offense that endangers the lives of both building occupants and emergency personnel. It is also an offense to prop open fire doors or to tamper in any way with alarm equipment, electromagnetic locks, or other safety devices or to block or obstruct paths of egress.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE

If you discover a fire in a campus building:

- **Immediately pull the nearest fire alarm as you exit the building.**
- **When evacuating the building, remember to feel doors before opening them to be sure that there is no fire danger on the other side. If you must enter a smoke-filled room or hallway, stay low, keeping one hand on the wall to avoid disorientation and crawl to the nearest exit, keep your head near the floor.**

- Once you are safely away from danger, call 911 and 662-241-7777 to report the fire.
- Leave the building at once but stand by to direct emergency teams to the location of the fire.

Note: If a member of the MUW community finds evidence of a fire that has been extinguished and the person is not sure whether Police or Fire Department has already responded, that person should notify the Police or Fire Department, who will investigate and document the incident.

FIRE RESPONSE DOS AND DON'TS

- **DO** treat every alarm as an emergency. If an alarm sounds, exit the building immediately.
- **DON'T** assume that a fire alarm is a drill or test. All building alarm systems are tested as required by law, but these tests are announced in advance.
- **DO** remain in your room if you cannot get out of the building because of heat or smoke. Call the **POLICE** and **FIRE DEPARTMENT** right away. Keep the door closed and wait for assistance from the Fire Department. If smoke is entering around the door, stuff the crack under the door with sheets, clothes, or blankets. If possible, open the window and wave a brightly colored garment or towel from your window---the Fire Department will be looking for this sign.
- **DO** close the door behind you if it is safe to leave your room.
- **DON'T** waste time collecting personal valuables. Take your keys so that you can reenter your room if exit from the building is not possible.
- **DON'T** use an elevator during a fire emergency: **ALWAYS USE THE STAIRS.**

Plans for Future Improvements

All Mississippi University for Women buildings meet or exceed City of Columbus and State of Mississippi fire safety requirements. In addition, as the University renovates buildings, additional fire suppression and detection devices are being added to bring our buildings above, or beyond, current requirements.

Access to University Facilities

The University takes pride in maintaining an open campus. Prospective students and interested members of the community are welcome to tour our institution. To balance the benefits of an open campus with the safety needs of an urban institution, a guard booth is placed at the front entrance to the campus. A dispatcher or officer will be stationed at this booth 24 hours a day, 7 days a week when available. There are police officers assigned to this campus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They perform foot and motorized patrols on campus.

Designated buildings require a valid University ID for entry. Students are asked to pay attention to other people when using their cards to gain access to buildings. Other people may be watching and waiting for you to open the door and come in behind you. When entering and before you get on the elevator, make sure the entrance to the building has locked.

The Revised Crime Classification: Burglary vs. Larceny

The 2005 Handbook for Campus Crime Reporting contains guidance on classifying burglaries provided by the FBI at that time. The guidance specified that, “Generally, if an item is missing from a structure, and if the individual who took the item is unknown, and if the investigation officer has exhausted all avenues leading toward the offense of Larceny-Theft, the proper classification is Burglary.” Recently, however, FBI representatives have reconsidered this guidance and replaced it with the following: An incident must meet *three conditions* to be classified as a **Burglary**.

1. There must be evidence of unlawful entry (trespass). Both forcible entry and unlawful entry-no force are counted.
2. The unlawful entry must occur within a structure, which is defined as having four walls, roof and a door.
3. The unlawful entry into a structure must show evidence that the entry was made in order to commit a felony or theft. If the intent was not to commit a felony or theft, or if the intent cannot be determined, the proper classification is Larceny.

Police/Fire and Other Safety Education

Spring 2013

1. State Wide Tornado Drill, February 2013
2. Hazing Dialogue Session, March 27, 2013
3. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, April 4, 2013

Fall 2013

1. Anti-Hazing Workshop August 15, 2013
2. On Campus Disaster Drill September 4, 2013
3. Jeans for Justice October 10, 2013
4. State Wide tornado Drill October 2013
5. Take Back the Night, October 2013

Caveats

- **City of Columbus**, after numerous requests, has failed to provide Crime Statistics for the last three years to the MUW PD.
- **Lowndes County Sheriff Department**, after numerous requests, has failed to provide Crime Statistics for the last three years to the MUW PD.
- **On-Campus Residential** statistics are a subset of the On-Campus Statistics;
- Certain Crime Statistics may include information reported to University authorities other than police and where the subject chose not to make a report;
- **Public Property** includes all public property, (including thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks, and parking facilities) that are within campus or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus.
- **Non-campus** includes university locations not reasonably contiguous to the main MUW campus. Plymouth Bluff is the only non-campus facility of the university.

*******As a safety precaution, the University community should know that they should physically check to make sure their vehicles are securely locked. They should also make sure that no money, electronics or any valuables are left in plain view inside their vehicles. When using keyless entry, you should still physically check your vehicle before leaving.**

2011 Crime and Fire Statistics

DATE REPORTED	DATE OF OCCURANCE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
5/1/2011	5/1/2011	ROBBERY	ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL	UNFOUNDED

2012 Crime and Fire Statistics

DATE REPORTED	DATE OF OCCURANCE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
2/25/2012	2/25/2012	DRUG ABUSE VIOLATION	ON CAMPUS	JUDICIAL REFERRAL
6/22/2012	6/22/2012	LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL	JUDICIAL REFERRAL
9/4/2012	9/4/2012	DRUG ABUSE VIOLATION	ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL	JUDICIAL REFERRAL
9/5/2012	9/5/2012	FORCIBLE SEXUAL OFFENSE	ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL	ARREST/NOT GUILTY

2013 Crime and Fire Statistics

DATE REPORTED	DATE OF OCCURANCE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
3/19/2013	3/19/2013	LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL	JUDICIAL REFERRAL
4/23/2013	4/23/2013	LIQUOR LAW/DRUG ABUSE	ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTIAL	JUDICIAL REFERRAL
12/20/2013	12/20/2013	LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	ON CAMPUS	ARREST/NOT GIULTY