

THE CHIEF'S *Brief*

NOVEMBER 2020



Welcome to this month's edition of The Chief's Brief. For those of you just joining us, The Chief's Brief is a monthly column to let you, the community, know what has been happening on the campus, where you can meet an officer, answer any questions you have about your University Police Department, and to offer a monthly safety tip.

First, I would like to thank everyone who has asked questions and created a dialogue with us. We have received a lot of positive feedback about The Chief's Brief.

Two of the most prevalent questions I have been asked is about crime on campus and the Daily Crime and Fire Log. To answer the first, crime on campus is down for this semester compared to other years, but we also have less people on campus due to COVID-19. So, the numbers this year may be skewed. Nevertheless, Officers continue to complete proactive patrols to keep our community safe.

The second most asked question is about the Daily Crime and Fire Log and how it works. The Daily Crime and Fire Log reports all crimes on campus, not just Clery reportable crimes. This log is designed to provide crime information on a timelier basis than the Annual Security Report. Crimes are listed on the log as they are reported, but may be updated based on evidence or current state statute. Entries to this log are made within two business days of the reported incident. If an arrest is made, the log must be updated. If the arrest occurs after a 60 day period, the record on the log does not have to reflect the update.

According to Federal Law, an institution may withhold any of the required fields of entry (i.e., the classification, date, time, location, and/or disposition) if any of the following conditions apply: The disclosure is prohibited by law, if it would jeopardize the confidentiality of the victim, if it would jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation, if it would cause a suspect to flee or evade arrest, or if it would result in the destruction of evidence.

The whole point of the Daily Crime and Fire Log is transparency. Anyone can come to the University Police Department and request a copy of the Daily Crime and Fire Log during the University's administrative hours. The Daily Crime and Fire Log is also available electronically at southeastern.edu/police; however, this page may not be updated daily.

Upcoming UPD Events:

Have you noticed officers around campus with beards? UPD is currently participating in their annual "No Shave November and Decembeard" philanthropy initiative. Each year, UPD selects a local cause in which to raise money for. Officers elect to participate in this initiative and donate funds. In turn, Officers are allowed to grow beards. This year, Officers are participating on behalf of Ponchatoula Police Department's Lt. Donald Burton. Lt. Burton is battling Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma and these funds raised will go directly to him to help with his medical expenses.

Watch our Social Media for future events and programming.

If you or your organization would like UPD to present on a topic, please reach out to us and we will make it happen.

Safety Tips:

As the semester ends and the holidays approach, students, staff, and faculty leave campus to travel and spend time with family. These are some of the busiest times on our roadways. The National Safety Council estimates that during the three big holiday periods of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, approximately 695 people will die as a result of a traffic accident.

Things to remember:

- **Wear your seatbelt!** Estimates show 145 lives could be saved during this period by simply buckling up.
- **Don't drink and drive!** Twenty-nine percent of all traffic fatalities during the holiday periods involved someone with a blood alcohol level (BAC) at or above the legal limit. If you're going to drink, make a plan to have a designated driver.

Having awareness saves lives!

Our team wants you to enjoy the holidays and semester break and get some much needed rest to tackle the spring semester. For those of you graduating this semester, congratulations on this amazing accomplishment! We can't wait to see what your future holds for you!

Remember to mask up and practice social distancing to keep our Lion Nation strong.

Send any questions or comments to police@southeastern.edu.

We will see you around campus. LION UP!

Chief Beckner

Southeastern Louisiana University Police Department