

Parents' Frequently Asked Questions

Does the University have an emergency plan?

Yes. The safety of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors is our highest priority. The University's Critical Incident Management Plan outlines the response strategy for all hazards, including natural, human, technological, and hazardous materials events. This is one of several emergency plans designed to address risks identified by hazard vulnerability assessments for UVA Grounds and the surrounding area. Other plans include (1) Building Occupant Emergency Plans that focus on life safety actions; (2) Hazard Mitigation Plans that focus on prevention and reduction of the impacts of hazards; and (3) Continuity of Operations Plans that provide for the continuation of essential functions during an extended incident. The University also works in a coordinated effort with the local community on joint emergency response plans.

In the event of an emergency, how will the University communicate with students, faculty, staff, and parents?

The University has a multi-tiered notification system employing multiple means to inform the community of an event.

- **The University Emergency information page** at www.virginia.edu/emergency is the official source for the most current reliable information in an emergency.
- **A siren system** with an audible voice message alerts those who are outside on Grounds.
- **UVA Alerts** notifies all registered users of an incident through text messaging and e-mail. (Students may sign up at <https://www.virginia.edu/uvaalerts/>)
- **University e-mail** notifies everyone with an @virginia.edu account of emergency situations.
- **LCD and LED screens** around Grounds display messages in an emergency.
- **Alertus desktop notification** will display a popup emergency message. See www.its.virginia.edu/software/desktopalert. (Requires connection to the UVA network and installation.)
- **The University home page** (www.virginia.edu) will display an emergency alert message.
- **The University's radio station**, 91.1 FM WTJU, broadcasts information during an incident.

What can I do to help my student be prepared?

Emergency preparedness is everyone's job, and the University is best prepared when the individuals in our community are prepared. Please encourage your student to do the following:

1. Sign up for UVA Alerts at <https://www.virginia.edu/uvaalerts/> to make sure he or she gets messages about emergencies on Grounds.
2. Install Alertus desktop messaging at www.its.virginia.edu/software/desktopalert to receive desktop alerts.
3. Stock an emergency "go bag" with the recommended supplies prior to arriving for the fall term. Don't forget to include items unique to your student, such as medications and extra eyeglasses. (See the *Handbook for Parents*, page 32, for more specifics.)
4. Add "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) contacts to his or her cell phone. By including numbers such as "ICE Mom" or "ICE Dad," designated emergency contacts can be reached more readily in an emergency.
5. Create a written family Emergency Plan that contains a communication plan so that everyone will understand how you will communicate in an emergency. See <http://www.virginia.edu/emergency/make-plan>

Finally, talk seriously with your student about personal safety. Encourage your daughter or son to learn about emergencies that could happen within the UVA community, the appropriate way to respond, and how to access up-to-date information at www.virginia.edu/emergency. The University Police and the Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer regularly send safety reminders to students. Anyone in your family can sign up for these Student Affairs updates by going to <http://hoosonline.virginia.edu/parentsemail>. Encourage your student to pay attention to these reminders and to take responsibility for safety within the UVA community.

Can parents sign up for UVA Alerts?

Although parents cannot sign up directly, students have the option to register two cell phone numbers to receive text messages within their UVA Alerts account. We recommend that students include one parent's number so that a parent will be notified of an event just as the student is notified. UVA Alerts also allows students to register up to six email addresses to receive emergency messages.

What can I do if I have a safety concern?

Our philosophy is to identify concerns in their early stages and to work constructively and collaboratively before problems escalate. In an emergency, members of the University Community should call 911 and seek advice for immediate action. Parents with urgent concerns should call the Office of the Dean of Students at 434-924-7133 or the University Police Department at 434-924-7166. For non-emergencies, call or e-mail the Parent Helpline at 434-243-3333 and parents@virginia.edu.

For more information, visit our website at www.virginia.edu/emergency