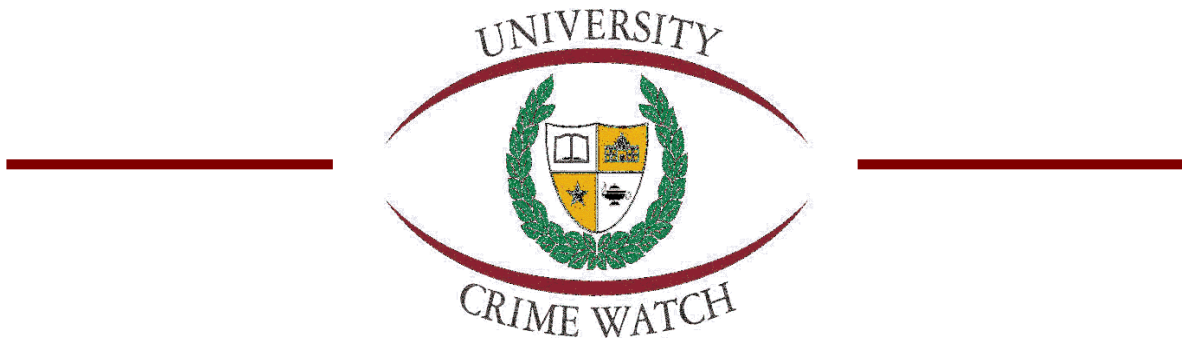


# **How to Start a University Crime Watch**



**Faculty, Staff and Students  
Safety Training**

**UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH**  
[www.universitycrimewatch.org](http://www.universitycrimewatch.org)

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## WELCOME

Welcome to UNIVERSITYCRIMEWATCH.org “*How to Start a University Crime Watch*” training course.

For more than thirty years, local law enforcement agencies and their community partners have been working together to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods around the country. Today with continued emphasis on crime reduction and the added task of reducing campus-based violence, UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH is more important than ever.

On college and university campuses throughout the country students, faculty and staff are being empowered and mobilized as they participate in proactive partnerships with their campus security, university police department or local law enforcement agency.

## WHY START A UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH?

Why start a University Crime Watch?

- Provide training to staff and students
- Create awareness
- Improve communication
- Build relationships
- Encourage volunteerism
- Foster campus safety

## UNIVERSITY CRITICAL INCIDENTS

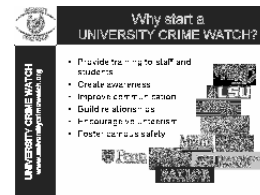
Since there are such a wide variety of critical issues and incidents to which school officials must be able to respond, let’s take a look at some of the potential all-hazards concerns that we may face in an educational environment.

Some of these concerns may include:

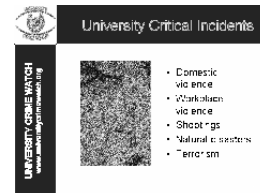
- Domestic (relationship) violence
- Workplace violence
- Shootings
- Natural disasters
- Terrorism

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## UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH ACTION PLAN

Institutions of higher learning are the perfect place for a UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH group, because campuses around the country contain highly-energized students, a caring staff, and knowledgeable faculty. College and university campuses contain leaders who want to be actively involved and dedicated to the program.

Leaders who possess communication skills or an ability to plan, organize and mobilize others are ingredients that are crucial to the success of a UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH.

Most important, these institutions contain faculty, staff and students who are dedicated to keeping the campus safe and secure and to providing the highest quality of life possible for the entire education family.

Here is the UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH Action Plan:

- Create awareness
- Organize volunteers
- Coordinate with Campus Security or University Police
- Identify concerns, issues or problems
- Develop strategies
- Provide training
- Conduct Action Activities

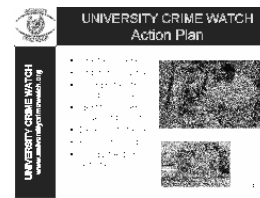
## CREATE AWARENESS

A UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH can be organized by faculty, students, staff or campus police.

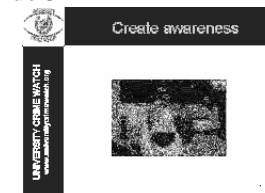
The first step in forming or revitalizing a UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH group is to create awareness among the students and staff about a particular concern, crime or safety issue affecting the campus. You may want to collect data from a variety of sources including police reports, personal observations, or media reports to make your point stronger. In some cases, once the factual information on the issue is collected, other concerns may emerge and help to demonstrate the need for an active UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH.

One example of this might be where students and staff are concerned about poor lighting conditions in areas where

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they attend night classes or have to travel to get back to their dorms. Once information is collected about this problem, other concerns such as underage drinking, drug use or property crimes may be revealed.

The primary concern in the initial phase of forming a UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH is to collect all of the information needed to raise the level of awareness about the identified concerns.

To learn more about creating awareness about campus concerns, and forming a UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH, visit [www.universitycrimewatch.org](http://www.universitycrimewatch.org).

## RECRUIT AND ORGANIZE VOLUNTEERS

Once data is collected, the organizers can format the information in order to disseminate it among their targeted group of potential volunteers. E-mails, flyers, letters, or even billboards can be used to spread the message about the concerns and the need for a UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH group. On some campuses, depending on the issues identified, the local media may work to spotlight the concerns and help to mobilize the potential volunteers.

The focus of the second step is to get the word out and begin to recruit individuals who want to form the “core” group of the new UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH effort.

This core group will be responsible for recruiting others, meeting with campus or local law enforcement, and building the UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH program.

## COORDINATE WITH CAMPUS POLICE

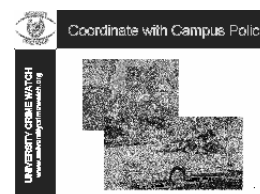
Once the campus issues have been identified and the core group has been established, the group should meet with their campus police to learn how the students and the police can build a strong partnership in order to create and sustain a UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH group and resolve the identified issues.

Campus police will be able to help students formalize their UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH. Law enforcers can provide information, literature, training and a host of other

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important assets to build the new group.

The new or revitalized group can register with [www.universitycrimewatch.org](http://www.universitycrimewatch.org). to become part of the national initiative against crime on campus.

## IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE ISSUES

One of the first meetings the group will want to hold will be to address and prioritize their concerns, issues or problems.

Student or faculty volunteers may take the initiative to address some of these concerns, while other issues may require the implementation of crime-reduction strategies by campus police or local law enforcement.

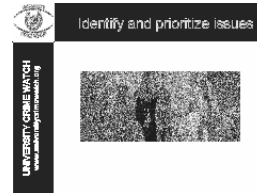
## DEVELOP STRATEGIES

After the campus's concerns have been identified and prioritized, the group should turn its attention to developing specific strategies to address these needs. Often UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH groups do not have a defined mission or specific goals, and find themselves with no clear guidance or direction. Numerous activities may occur, but due to a lack of focus they may not resolve the real issues.

A meeting should be held to develop a strategic plan that identifies not only the concerns but also the resources that are available. Locally-developed goals with specific objectives and realistic strategies should be agreed upon by the group. A plan of action should be adopted, and then implementation strategies designed which will not only guide the plan, but provide a means to assess and evaluate its effectiveness.

In order to help facilitate this portion of the planning process, training and tools such as a Strategic Planning Poster and Visions Worksheet are available through [www.universitycrimewatch.org](http://www.universitycrimewatch.org).

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## PROVIDE TRAININGS

UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH leaders and their student and staff volunteers should schedule meetings where they can receive training in crime prevention.

Campus security, university police and local law enforcement agencies can provide a number of training programs that will help students work together to protect themselves and their campuses.

Training such as:

- Responding to Critical Incidents – “The First Three Minutes”
- Awareness and Warning Signs of Campus Violence
- Improving Observation Skills
- Target Hardening for the Campus
- Reporting Suspicious Persons and Activities
- Threat Assessment
- Crisis Response Basics

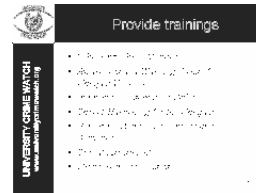
and other topics are available to UNIVERSITYCRIMEWATCH members.

## CONDUCT CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

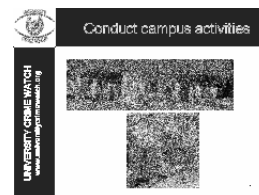
After receiving training, the UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH group is ready to begin conducting a wide range of activities in awareness, prevention, and response.

Across the nation, active UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH groups are recruiting new members, mobilizing volunteers, and taking proactive steps to reclaim or strengthen their campus against crime, while increasing their safety and security and improving their quality of life.

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## PRACTICES AND SKILL BUILDING

Some campus UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH activities can include security programs on self-protection, campus skill-building activities such as forming a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) group, or mock emergency drills.

## CAMPUS SAFETY DRILLS

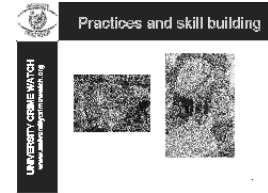
Other UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH activities can include conducting campus safety drills.

Just like fire drills, shelter-in-place, lockdowns and evacuations become “just another activity” instead of a traumatic event. These drills can be conducted in addition to your regular fire drills and weather-related drills (such as tornado, wildfire, or hurricane, depending on your geographic location and its weather patterns).

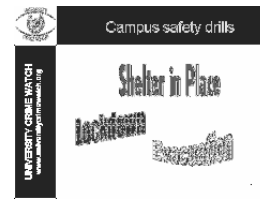
## CONCLUSION

To receive additional training and materials for your UNIVERSITY CRIME WATCH group, or information on conducting various campus-based activities, contact University Crime Watch at [info@universitycrimewatch.org](mailto:info@universitycrimewatch.org), or visit our website at [www.universitycrimewatch.org](http://www.universitycrimewatch.org).

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