

Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety at Vermont Tech serves the student body by maintaining a safe environment, protecting life and property, preventing and detecting crime, and enforcing college policies. The Public Safety Department reports to the Dean of Student Affairs and works closely with the Residence Life office. Public Safety officers have access to the complete campus and may be seen anywhere on college property at any time.

The Department of Public Safety consists of the Director, two full-time officers, and six part-time officers. Two part-time officers are assigned to the Williston campus. The Public Safety office in Randolph Center is on the east end of the Administration Center, Room 122 and is staffed 24x7 all year round. The Williston Public Safety staff are located in the Administrative Building 200. A Public Safety Officer is on duty from 6 - 11 p.m. during the academic year.

The main objective of Public Safety at the college is to ensure that the campus provides a safe and secure learning environment. No college can completely isolate itself from the problem of crime. What we strive to do is keep this problem minimized at Vermont Tech through prevention efforts based on teamwork, awareness, and involvement on the part of all of us who make up the campus community. There is an emphasis on the notion of "if you see something, say something." The responsibility for crime prevention is one that we all share. Individuals are encouraged to report suspicious or criminal activity on or near the campus.

The college has numerous groups focused on safety, including: Students of Concern; Behavior Threat Assessment Team; and the Incident Response Team. There is also a "physical security working group" of key stakeholders who meet on a regular basis to evaluate use of the College Safety & Security fee.

In the spring of 2016 the Vermont State Colleges conducted a Physical Security Program Assessment. The goals for the next five years continue to build on the recommendations from the document. They are as follows:

Technology & Infrastructure (Years 1-5)

- Utilize electronic security systems as a force multiplier wherever possible and to continue to use security forces in a proactive, community policing model that allows for early intervention and response calls for service of specific threats.
- Enhance the institution's emergency notification system to ensure all internal/external stakeholders are informed of a critical incident.
- Install one exterior camera outside all primary entrances to residential halls at the college.
- Ensure classrooms and offices can be locked from the inside.
- Cover windows/glass as appropriate with shades or film.

Training & Drilling (Year 1)

- Create an annual Training and Exercise Program for faculty, staff, students, residents, and others such as temporary workers or vendors to include:
 - Lockdown and evacuation drills and communication about what to do if locking down or evacuating a building
 - Develop and conduct two table top exercises per year
- Ensure emergency response guides posted in classrooms and residential buildings.

Develop policies and standards (Years 1-5)

- Develop standards and comprehensive policies for use of electronic access control, mechanical locks, security cameras, alarms, warning lights, recording devices, intrusion detection, duress alarms, emergency phones, emergency or mass notification systems, way-finding signage, and staffing.
- Guidance on training requirements, maintenance and authority. Describe how the systems will be used, by whom, and under what circumstances.
- A single policy that incorporates the framework for the overarching security technology program.

Community connections (Years 1-2)

- Establish a formal MOU with emergency first response organizations that defines agency/institution roles and responsibilities during a critical incident on campus.
- Build positive relationships with local first responders including planning, training, exercising.

Multiple Sites (Years 1-5)

- Adopt the facility standard model and request that each campus categorize their facilities accordingly and set priorities for enhancements.
- Establish facility security standards based on facility type/function.