OFFICE SECURITY

Faculties and Units should be planning now for the approaching Christmas/New Year break.

Consider accounting for all equipment and valuable items, then reviewing arrangements to safely secure and store all portable items of value that could be at the risk from theft during the break period.

You should safely secure all valuable portable equipment, e.g. cameras, mobile telephones, laptop computers.

Laptop computers are very attractive items for thieves. Laptops should always be locked away in a docking station and security cabled to immovable property. When not in use for extended periods or overnight, it is recommended that laptops should be locked away out of sight in a secure place.

By taking these simple measures you can reduce the opportunity for theft or make it more difficult for thieves to achieve their goals.

Important Points to Consider:

- Lock away all portable valuable items.
- Ensure computers are cabled to desks – take special care of laptop computers.
- Ensure that offices are locked when unattended.
- If you have a security intrusion alarm for a particular area, ensure the alarm is operable and in use. If you are unsure contact the Security Supervisor Merelyn Kenyon x4554 to have your system checked or to obtain technical service.
- Avoid using generic keys out of common drawers for the security of items.
- Ensure office/security keys are not left on desktops - maintain effective control of keys at all times.
- Report lost or stolen keys and access cards immediately to your Supervisor and UOW Security.
- Report lost or stolen identification cards immediately to your Supervisor and UOW Security.
- Secure cash in safes only. Ensure the safe is of commercial grade and bolted to a solid surface, e.g. a concrete floor surface. Make sure safe keys are effectively controlled at all times.
- Ensure cash limits are maintained by regular banking procedures. Ensure cash limits do not exceed safe specifications.
- Check the physical security of your office area – are door locks working correctly?
• Check windows and window locks for defects, especially if the office can be reached from the outside, e.g. a ground floor office window or a window accessible from upper pedestrian thoroughfares or structures.
• Ensure windows are locked at the end of every business day.
• Turn off all appliances not required overnight or for extended periods of absence such as heaters, fans, lamps, battery chargers, office lights, etc.

On Campus during the Christmas Break:

• Make sure you have your staff or student identification with you.
• Security staff will conduct random security patrols of buildings. Officers cannot be expected to know everyone on campus, so be prepared to show your identification if asked. Officers may record your name, time and location as part of their patrol duties. Please do not be offended by these practices.
• If you feel the need to alert Security for your personal safety when on campus day or night during the break period, please feel free to do so. Let Officers know how long you intend to be on campus. If practical, and if you are on campus for a long period, they may call by to see that you are ok. When you leave please inform the Officers.
• If you require assistance, please call 4221.4555 or 6555 speed dial for the mobile telephone 0407 287750.
• To report emergencies call 4221.4900 or the speed dial 6555. Dial #1 from any Security telephone.

Security Tips for Home

If you are planning on being away during the Christmas break period, take the time to think about how your household normally functions. Take time to look at the things that might provide strong indicators that you are away.

Planning a Holiday

If there is no one staying at home while you are away, consider some of the following points:

• Check doors and windows and make sure locks are functional and can be effectively locked.
• Set up a couple of timers to run the television or a radio and lights during the day and night.
• Turn down the telephone ring on your phone.
• You could use an answering machine or home messaging but do not create a message that directly indicates you are away. Alternatively, you could divert your calls to your mobile telephone.
• Make arrangements to cancel any regular services or deliveries for the time you are away, e.g. mail, milk, paper deliveries, wine deliveries, etc.
• If you have a reliable neighbour or friend ask them to collect your mail and/or clear junk mail from your mailbox and put out and/or bring in your garbage bins after service.
• If you are away for extended periods consider having the garden and lawns maintained.
• If you are away for a longer period, talk to your local Police for advice and awareness of your intended absence.
Holiday Safety Tips

Weather

The Bureau of Meteorology provides an important service to the community in keeping us all informed about severe weather conditions.

Go the Bureau’s website to keep up-to-date with changes in weather conditions and storm activity.

For more information about safety in severe thunderstorms go to the Bureau of Meteorology’s website: http://www.bom.gov.au/index.shtml

Bushfire

Visit the Rural Fire Services website and familiarise yourself with the information provided by the Service on preparing and planning on how to protect your family from a Bushfire. This is especially important for you if you live in a bushland setting, or in an urban area surrounded by bushland. Bushfires may also impact you if you are travelling on holidays in rural or coastal bushland areas, e.g. you may be intending on camping in a National Park or similar bushland setting.

In these circumstances you should be familiar with the Fire Danger Ratings and Index. You should have thought through a safety plan (refer to the RFS Bushfire Survival Plan) in the event you might be confronted by warnings for a day/s for severe, extreme or catastrophic fire conditions.

Listen for weather and fire reports on radio and television.

The Rural Fire Service website also outlines how information about fires near you would be issued in the following way:

Advice

A fire has started - there is no immediate danger.

Watch and Act

A heightened level of threat - conditions are changing; you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.

Emergency Warning

You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

For more information about being prepared; find information about bushfire survival plans and total fire bans: go to: http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/.

UOW Security wishes all staff and students a safe Christmas and holiday break.