

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE  
UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL  
SECURITY  
& FIRE  
REPORT

Campus Safety – Your Right to Know

2016

## INTRODUCTION

This report is to familiarize the Mississippi Valley State University community with the Mississippi Valley State (MVSU) Police Department, inform you of public safety policies and procedures, describe public safety programs and services available, report the on-campus occurrence of criminal incidents and arrests, and report fires that occurred in student resident halls on campus.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Campus security is a top priority and of upmost importance at Mississippi Valley State University. In order to ensure quality educational processes thrive, we must create, support, and maintain an environment of personal safety and well-being for students, faculty, staff, and the entire university community.

Publication of the Mississippi Valley State University Annual Security and Fire Safety Report places us in compliance with federal regulation under the Clery Act and the Campus Crime Statistics Act. It is a reflection of our processes to review data collected from our University and to enhance our abilities to ensure safety and security. This report is proof that we take our role in providing a quality environment, which is conducive to learning, very seriously. We adhere to best practices for creating safe environments for all. These practices include visibility and presence of Police and Security staff, a culture of awareness, early reporting of suspicious and questionable activity, and prompt response. Please review this report as our way of communicating an ongoing commitment to Public Safety and the continuous improvement of safe educational environments here at Mississippi Valley State University.

## MISSION

The goal of MVSU University Police Department is to provide a reasonable safe and secure campus community for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The University also encourages students, faculty, staff, and visitors to take appropriate steps to insure their own personal safety and to report suspicious individuals, activities, or hazardous conditions immediately on the campus.

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Emergency:                       | 911 or 254-2700    |
| MVSU Police Department:          | 254-3478/ 254-3479 |
| Itta Bena Police/Fire:           | 254-6333           |
| Leflore County Sheriff's Office: | 453-5141           |
| MVSU Student Counseling Center:  | 254-3830           |
| MVSU Student Health Center:      | 254-3331           |

Emergency 911 calls are routed to the Leflore County Sherriff Department who will immediately contact MVSU Police. Campus community members are encouraged to program the MVSU Police emergency number (662) 254-2700 into their cell phones to reduce emergency response time.

### PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING CAMPUS CRIME AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

Community members, students, faculty, staff, and guests are strongly encouraged to report all crimes and public safety related incidents to the University Police Department at 254-3478 or 254-3479 in a timely manner.

Dispatchers are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to answer your call.

If you are the victim of a crime, witness a crime or suspicious activity or observe a potential security or safety hazard, notify University Police immediately. The sooner a crime is reported, the better the chances become that the police will solve the crime, apprehend the suspect(s), and /or recover any property than may have been taken.

If assistance is required from external law enforcement agencies, MVSU Police Department will contact the appropriate unit. If a sexual assault or rape should occur, staff on the scene, including MVSU Police, will offer the victim various types of services.

Crimes should be reported to MVSU Police Department to ensure inclusion in the annual crime statistics and to aid in providing timely warning notices to the community, when appropriate. For example, a crime that was reported only to Our House would not be included in the MVSU crime statistics.

All criminal activity occurring on campus should be reported immediately to University Police. If you see or

suspect criminal activity, you cannot assume that else has reported it. Whether you are a victim or an observer, you should report any crime, suspicious activity, or emergency to the MVSU Police Department.

Remember, you don't need proof that a crime has occurred.

When you call MVSU Police Department, please provide the following information

- Your name;
- The location of the incident you are reporting; A description of the scene and suspects;
- A description of any vehicles involved in the incident, especially a license plate number; and
- The nature of the incident.

#### CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING PROCEDURES

If you are the victim of a crime and do not want to pursue action within the university system or the criminal justice system, you may still want to consider making a confidential report. With your permission, the

Chief or a designee of MVSU Police Department can file a report on the details of the incident without revealing your identity. The purpose of a confidential report is to comply with your request to keep the matter confidential, while taking steps to ensure the future safety of yourself and others. With such information, the University can keep an accurate record of the number of incidents involving students, determine whether there is a pattern of crime with regard to a particular location, method, or assailant, and alert the campus community to potential danger. Reports filed in this manner are counted and disclosed in the annual crime statistics for the institution.

### FALSE REPORTING OF EMERGENCIES

Any student(s) making a false report of any type of emergency in any building, structure, or facility on University premises in any manner has committed a criminal offense, and will be subject to separation from the University.

### RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF CRIME

All crimes reported to the MVSU Police Department are considered serious and are treated with the appropriate concern and attention toward solving the crime. Each officer is trained to perform investigations. There are 2 officers are designated as full-time investigators. All reasonable avenues of investigations will be pursued concerning a complaint. The complainant will be notified in a manner of the results of the investigation.

Individuals who wish to report incidents of inappropriate behavior by students but who do not want the incident investigated as a criminal offense should make such reports to the Vice President of Student Affairs (254-3636)

### IF YOU SEE A SUSPICIOUS PERSON

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, call the MVSU Police Department immediately. Do not approach the person yourself. Report the type of activity you observed and describe the person or persons involved. Provide as much information as you can, such as sex, race, hair color, length and texture, body size, clothing, scars and other noticeable markings; mode of travel, and vehicle color, type, and license plate number. MVSU Police Department will investigate your report immediately. When all members of the campus community become

security conscious and report suspicious activity, thefts and related incidents can be reduced.

### ACCESS TO CAMPUS FACILITIES

Although MVSU campus is open to the public, its facilities are limited to university academic and administrative activities and programs sponsored by university groups. University property will be open during business hours to students, parents, employees, contractors, visitors, and invitees. During non-business hours, access to all University facilities is to be by key, if issued or by admittance via the University Police or Housing and Residential Life staff. In the case of periods of extended closing, the University Police will control access. Some particular buildings, such as the library, gym or cafeteria, will have varied and individual hours and will be secured by the responsible department. Anyone requesting after-hours access to facilities must have the approval of the appropriate authority prior to allowing access.

Emergencies may necessitate changes or alterations to any posted schedules. Areas that are revealed as problematic have security surveys conducted of them. Administrators from the Division of Student Affairs and other areas review these results. These surveys examine security issues such as landscaping, locks, alarms, lighting, and communications.

## SAFETY TIPS

A college campus is a great place to learn and grow, but like any other community, it has its share of accidents, crimes, emergencies, and injuries. While there are no guarantees against being a victim, the following suggestions can help you reduce the “opportunity” and make you less vulnerable.

### While Walking On or Off Campus

- Avoid walking alone, especially at night. Call the MVSU Police Department for an escort, if necessary (254-3478).
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times; pay attention to what other people are doing.
- Avoid unpopulated and poorly or unlit areas after dark.

- Be aware of your companions. Ensure that they are people you trust.
- Walk and act with confidence. LOOK alert! BE alert!
- If you feel you are being followed, change direction. Walk towards a populated area.
- Never hitchhike or accept rides from a stranger. If you feel you must give directions to a driver or pedestrian, maintain enough distance to prevent being grabbed.
- Avoid working late at night or on weekends in isolated offices or labs.
- Trust your instincts when you sense danger. Don't be embarrassed "to make a scene" if you feel you are in danger.

### At Home or In Residence Halls

- Attend security awareness programs sponsored by MVSU Police Department and Student Affairs throughout the year.
- Lock doors. It is a good idea not only to lock doors when you are away, but also when you are in your room or home.
- Keep a list of your belongings and give a copy to someone who lives elsewhere. The list should include serial and model numbers and a description of items. Keeping sales receipts and photographing valuables is also a good idea.
- Encourage your roommates to help you maintain security. Look out for one another at all times.
- Never prop doors open or let someone into the residence hall you don't know.
- Remember, all visitors to the residence hall must be cleared at the entrance desk or office.
- Don't open your home or room to strangers – utility companies furnish ID badges.
- Never reveal your phone number to a wrong number caller.
- Don't lend your keys to anyone – period!
- If you notice any signs of forced entry when you come home, DON'T ENTER. Go to a neighbor and call the police.
- Never leave messages on your door or advertise when you will return or indicate that you live alone.
- Always have your keys out and ready when you come to your door.
- Don't hide an extra key outside. Rapist and burglars know all the best spots.

- Be wary of a neighbor or casual acquaintance that makes it a habit of "dropping in" when no one else is home.

The on-campus residence halls, apartments, and staff housing is home to nearly 3,000 men and women, both undergraduate and graduate student, mostly in double accommodations. Some buildings are open year-round; most other facilities close during university holidays. Each resident is provided with a key to his or her room.

All other doors are marked "Exit Only" or "Emergency Exit Only" and should be locked to prevent entry from outside the building at all times. These doors are to be used only for their designated purposes. Windows are equipped with locks operable by the room occupants.

### RESIDENCE HALL SECURITY

- A student who enters or leaves the residence hall after closing hours is responsible for securing the outside door.
- A student may not prop open or alter a door so that it will not properly close and lock.
- A student may not admit unauthorized or invite persons into the hall after it has been closed.
- Any maintenance deficiencies that may comprise building security should be reported immediately to a residence hall staff member or the Housing Facilities Office (254-3590) When the Residential Life Office is closed (5:00 p.m. on weekdays and during weekends and holidays) potential security problems should first be reported to the Residence Hall front desk or MVSU Police Department.

Security systems and security procedures are provided for your protection. You should follow these procedures at all times.

### MVSU POLICE AUTHORITY & JURISDICTION

The MVSU Police Department is a full service law enforcement agency as empowered by virtue of 37-101-15 (c) of the Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated which is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, year-round. Officers are vested with the authority of a constable that

includes the power to make arrests and carry firearms. Our sworn and academy-trained officers and our support staff work to enforce the rules and regulations of the university and the laws of the state of Mississippi. Police jurisdiction includes all university-owned, rented, or leased property.

When minor offenses involving University rules and regulations are committed by a University student, the campus police will also refer the individual to the University Judicial Affairs Office. Major offenses such as rape, murder, aggravated assault, robbery, and auto theft are reported to the local police and joint investigative efforts with investigators from MVSU and the applicable law enforcement agency are deployed to solve these serious felony crimes. The prosecution of all criminal offenses, both felony and misdemeanor, are conducted at the county, state and federal court levels.

MVSU Police Department radio dispatchers operate the department's telephones and two-way radios on a 24-hour basis to provide information and respond to emergencies. Dispatchers can contact the fire department, other law enforcement agencies, or emergency medical service by direct phone line or radio. Personnel also monitor the National Weather Service radio network. The campus is equipped with an alert system to warn of threatening weather conditions.

### CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

Crime Prevention Programs on personal safety and theft prevention are sponsored by various campus organizations throughout the year. MVSU Police personnel facilitate programs for students, parents, faculty, staff, and new employee orientations, student organizations in addition to quarterly programs for Residential Life Resident Advisers and residents providing a variety of educational strategies and tips on how to protect themselves from sexual assault, theft and other crimes.

Tip: To enhance personal safety, and especially after an evening class, walk with friends or someone from class

that you know well, or call the MVSU Police Department for an escort.

### OFF-CAMPUS MONITORING

MVSU does not have any off-campus student organizations, however, there is privately owned housing in the community in which many of our students reside. Because of this relationship with the community, Mississippi Valley State University endeavors to obtain, to the extent possible, reports of crimes at off-campus locations frequented by students.

MVSU police department maintains a working relationship with Greenwood Police Department, Itta Bena Police Department, Leflore County Sheriff's office, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The Department is also notified by the local law enforcement agencies of criminal threats in the local communities which may pose a threat to the MVSU community.

### WEAPONS ON CAMPUS

Mississippi Valley State University has a "zero tolerance" policy with reference to the possession, use, or storage of any dangerous weapon or device including, but not limited to rifles, shotguns, handguns, air guns, BB guns, bow and arrows, ammunition, hunting slingshots, martial arts weapons, medieval weapons, darts, bowie knives, daggers, switch blade knives, machete, metallic knuckles, explosives, black jack, stun gun, and chemicals on University premises or at University sponsored activities is prohibited and will result in expulsion from MVSU. Additionally, faculty and staff may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

### Campus Violence Prevention & Intervention Program

**The Campus Violence Prevention & Intervention Program provides the necessary counseling support, health care, training activities, and resource materials to victims of interpersonal violence. With this program, all campus law enforcement and all members of campus disciplinary**

boards including project partners, are trained to respond effectively to assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; in an effort to decrease interpersonal violence on campus.

Literature on interpersonal violence is available in the Campus Violence Prevention & Intervention Program office, located in the MVSU Police Department, Student Counseling Center, and the Student Health Center.

If you are a victim of a sexual assault at MVSU, your first priority should be to get to a place of safety. You should then obtain necessary medical treatment by contacting or going to the Student Health Center if the assault occurs Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The University Police Department strongly advocates that a victim of sexual assault report the incident in a timely manner. Time is a critical factor for evidence collection and preservation. An assault should be reported directly to a University officer and /or to a Counseling Center representative. Filing a police report with a University officer will not obligate the victim to prosecute, nor will it subject the victim to scrutiny or judgmental opinions from officers. Filing a police report will

- Ensure that a victim of sexual assault receives the necessary medical treatment,
- Provide the opportunity for collection of evidence helpful in prosecution, which cannot be obtained later (ideally a victim of sexual assault should not wash, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing prior to a medical/legal exam)
- Assure the victim has access to free confidential counseling from counselors specifically trained in the area of sexual assault crisis intervention.

When a sexual assault victim contacts the MVSU Police Department, the Police Department will contact a representative of Student Counseling and the Student Health Center if a physical injury has occurred. The victim of a sexual assault may choose for the investigation not be pursued through the criminal justice system and the University Judicial Affairs, or only the latter. A university representative from MVSU Police Department or Counseling Services will guide the

victim through the available options and support the victim in his or her decision. Various counseling options are available from the University through the Counseling Center. Counseling and support services outside the University system can be obtained through the Counseling Center.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

Mississippi Valley State is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which student, faculty, and staff can work together in an atmosphere free of the threat of sexual assault.

Mississippi Valley State views any form of sexual assault as a serious offense, and such behavior is prohibited by state law and by university policy and will not be tolerated in any form. Sexual assault is a violent crime and includes any act of forced, coerced, or non-consensual sexual intercourse or sexual contact against the will and without the consent of the victim. An individual is unable to give an informed consent if they are asleep, intoxicated, unconscious, or in some other way physically or emotionally unable. Sexual assault is also the term used to define any unwanted touching of an intimate part of another person. Sexual assault can occur against males and females, regardless of sexual orientation, race, class, religion, age, or disability.

**Acquaintance rape** is a form of sexual assault that includes manipulation within a relationship. This manipulation includes using acquaintance to gain trust and take advantage of the victim's vulnerability. Acquaintance rape includes:

- Having sexual relations against the victim's will and without the victim's consent
- Having sexual relations with someone who is drunk or high and therefore unable to give consent
- Using physical force or threats of physical force to coerce the victim into sexual relations

- Using emotional manipulation and/or threats to coerce the victim into sexual relations

### Frequency and Prevalence

College students of traditional age are vulnerable to being victims of sexual assault. The new setting coupled with sexual impulses and peer pressure may lead to dangerous experimenting with new freedoms. Acquaintance rape is prevalent on college campuses. Acquaintance rape refers to the fact that the victim knows the assailant prior to the rape. The assailant may be a friend or significant other or someone who knows the victim from living in the same residence hall or having a class together.

Most sexual assaults involve the use of alcohol by both the assailant and the victim. The mood-altering effects of alcohol reduce inhibitions, as well as the ability to assess dangerous situations and safeguard one's self. Sexual contact when the victim is intoxicated is sexual assault because a person is unable to give informed consent when drunk. Intoxication of the assailant does not diminish responsibility.

#### PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING A SEXUAL OFFENSE

Get to a safe place. For your protection, call the police immediately, especially if the assailant is still nearby.

- Students who have been sexually assaulted on-campus should call MVSU Police Department immediately at 254-2700
- Students who have been sexually assaulted off-campus should call the local police/sheriff's office. ( In an emergency, dial 911)
- Get medical attention immediately. The primary purpose of a medical examination is to check for physical injury, the presence of sexually transmitted diseases, or pregnancy as a result of the assault. The secondary purpose of a medical examination is to aid in the police investigation and legal proceedings.

- Do not bathe or douche. It is okay to change clothes, but save the clothing you were wearing at the time of the battery. Place each item of clothing in a separate bag and save for the police.

- Do not disturb the physical surroundings in which the assault took place.

- If the assault occurs on University property, it should also be reported to the Vice President of Student to help safeguard other residents and members of the campus community. A victim who reports a crime may request anonymity to the extent practicable and permitted by local law.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT SANCTIONS

Rape and sexual assault are criminal violations. Anyone charged with a sexual assault violation which is campus-related may be subject to one or more of the following:

- A criminal charge filed against the individual
- An administrative proceeding initiated by the University

Criminal and administrative proceedings may occur concurrently. Students found guilty will be expelled.

#### YOUR RIGHTS AS A SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM

As a victim, you have the right to file criminal charges with local law enforcement authorities and, upon request, are entitled to assistance from the University in notifying the local law enforcement authorities.

- The accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during a campus disciplinary proceeding
- Both parties shall be informed of the outcome of any disciplinary proceeding and any sanction that is imposed against the accused.
- Survivors shall be informed of their options to notify law enforcement
- Survivors shall be notified of counseling services Survivors shall be notified of options for changing academic and living situations if the changes are reasonably available.

**CAMPUS SEX CRIMES PREVENTION ACT (CSCPA)**  
 The Campus Sex Crime Prevention Act (CSCPA) provides requirements relating to registration and community notification for sex offenders who are enrolled in or work at institutions of higher education. Effective October 2003, the law requires institutions of higher education to issue a statement advising the campus community where law enforcement agency information provided by a state concerning registered sex offenders may be obtained. It also requires sex offenders already required to register in a state to provide notice of each institution of higher education in that state at which the person is employed, carries a vocation, or is a student.

This information is maintained by Mississippi Department of Public Safety and can be obtained by accessing the Mississippi Sex Offender Registry at [www.dps.state.ms.us](http://www.dps.state.ms.us). ***This information is made available for the purpose of protecting the public. Anyone who uses this information to commit a criminal act against another person is subject to criminal prosecution. The sale or exchange of sex offender information for profit is prohibited. Misuse of this information is a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment in the county jail not more than six (6) months, or both.***

**RESOURCES**

This publication is to inform MVSU community members with specific information about the resources that is available in the event that they become the victim of a crime and about on-campus and off campus resources. The information about “resources” is not provided to infer that those resources are “reporting entities” for MVSU

**CAMPUS RESOURCES:**

The staff of University’s Counseling Center is available to help you cope if you become the victim of a sexual assault. The staff will assist with free and confidential counseling services and referrals. If you would like to receive more information about your options for pressing charges, for reporting an incident, for filing internal

complaints, or for counseling, please contact the Counseling Center.

**OFF-CAMPUS RESOURCES:**

You may feel anxious, frighten, depressed or angry and may be fearful, restless, or irritated. You may be experiencing difficulties in relationships with family members and friends and in dating. Talking with a counselor who understands rape and can discuss your concerns and options may be helpful to you:

| RESOURCES  |  |
|--|--|
| MVSU Police Department.....                                    | 254-3478/3479  |
| Campus Violence Prevention & Intervention Program.....         | 254-8406   |
| National Domestic Violence Information & Referral Hotline..... | (800) 799-7233<br>(Offers a confidential 24-hour crisis hotline, and shelter for battered women) |
| MVSU Student Counseling .....                                  | 254-3830   |
| Our House, Inc. Hotline.....                                   | 888-884-5683   |
| MVSU Student Health Center.....                                | 254-3331   |

Counseling services may be available from other sources such as the following:

- Local Health
- Department Rape crisis center Family doctor
- Hospital
- Mental health professionals Clergy

**DISCLOSURE OF CRIME STATISTICS**

The University Police Department prepares this report to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act. The full text of



this report can be located on our web site at [www.mvsu.edu/upd](http://www.mvsu.edu/upd). You will also be able to connect to our site via the MVSU Home page at [www.mvsu.edu](http://www.mvsu.edu). This report is prepared in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies and the division of Student Affairs. Each entity provides updated information on their educational efforts and programs to comply with the Act.

Campus crime, arrest and referral statistics include those reported to the MVSU Police, designated campus officials (including but not limited to directors, deans, department heads, designated staff, judicial affairs, advisors to students/student organizations, athletic coaches), and local law enforcement agencies. The report includes a three- year statistical history of crime data for each campus, and facilities owned or used by MVSU.

Each year, a notification is made to all enrolled students, staff, and faculty that provide the web site to access this report. Copies of the report may also be obtained at MVSU Police Department Headquarters located in the Annex I Building or by calling (662) 254-3478 or 254-3479. A notice containing a statement of the annual security report's availability, a description of its content and the opportunity to request a copy will be provided to prospective students and prospective employees.

The annual security report must be published and accessible to current students and employees by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

#### STUDENT RIGHT TO KNOW AND CAMPUS SECURITY ACT

#### CRIME REPORTING POLICIES

The University Police department is the office to which all criminal reports should be made. Everyone on campus (including students, faculty, staff and visitors) is encouraged to report immediately any potential criminal activity to the University Police.

MVSU will issue an annual report of criminal activities disclosed to the University Police Department for crimes

occurring on college property and certain non-campus facilities including remote classrooms. The annual report includes reported crimes alleged to have occurred on the campus and facilities owned or rented by MVSU. It includes the following categories:

#### Criminal Homicide

- Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter, and
- Negligent Manslaughter

#### Sex Offenses (Forcible)

- Forcible rape
- Forcible sodomy
- Sexual assault with an object
- Forcible fondling

#### Sex Offenses Non-Forcible

- Incest
- Statutory rape
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault
- Burglary
- Motor Vehicle theft
- Negligent Manslaughter
- Simple Assault
- Arson
- Any of the above crimes evidencing hate crimes

This report also includes arrests of persons referred for campus disciplinary action:

- Liquor Law violations
- Drug Law violations
- Illegal Weapons Possession

The statistics are cited by geographic location to campus, on-campus student residential facilities, non-campus building and property, or on public property such as streets and sidewalks. **Listed below are MVSU's crime statistics for the most recent 3-year period including 2013, 2014, and 2015.**

OC = On-campus; OCRH= On-campus residence halls; NCP= Non-campus property; PP= Public Property

## JEANNE CLERY DISCLOSURE OF CAMPUS SECURITY POLICY AND CAMPUS CRIME STATISTICS ACT

In 1990, Congress enacted the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act (Title II of Public Law 101-542), which amended the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). This Act requires all postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV student financial aid programs to disclose campus crime policy and crime statistics concerning their occurrence on campus, during the most recent school year, and during the two preceding school years of various criminal offenses reported to campus police or local police agencies. Students and employees may request a copy of this report which is also provided to the U.S. Department of Education. For more information on the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, please visit <http://www.campussafety.org>

To comply with Clery Act regulations, an institution has several obligations: 1) Policy Disclosure, 2) Records collection and Retention, and 3) Information Dissemination

## DAILY CRIME LOG

The MVSU Police Department maintains a daily crime log of all crimes reported to the department. This log includes the nature of the crime, the date, time, and the general location, as well as the disposition of the crime. Crimes are logged in the order they are received by the Police Department. The daily crime log is available on the web at [www.mvsu.edu/upd](http://www.mvsu.edu/upd). Entries or updates may be withheld if the information is protected by statute, or if there is a danger to the victim or a need to keep the investigation confidential. If there is reason to believe the release of information will result in the perpetrator fleeing the area, or that evidence will be destroyed, the information also may be withheld until the jeopardy no longer exists.

## TIMELY WARNINGS

In the event a situation arises, either on or off campus, that, in the judgment of the President, the President's designee, and/or MVSU Chief of Police constitutes an ongoing or continuing threat, a campus-wide "timely warning" will be issued. The warnings will be issued throughout the campus in partnership with the office of Public Relations through e-mail announcements, emergency notification system, in-class announcements, the university's website as well as the police department's website at [www.mvsu.edu/upd](http://www.mvsu.edu/upd), and other appropriate means.

Anyone with information warranting a timely warning should report the circumstances to the MVSU Police Department by phone 662-254-3478 or 662-254-3479 or in person at police headquarters located in the Annex I Building.

## LOST AND FOUND

MVSU Police Department serves as the central clearing place for lost and found items. Contact the police department to report a lost item, or to turn in a found item. Items are kept for 30 days. After that time, items that remain unclaimed will be disposed of. To retrieve found property, contact the MVSU Police Department, Monday through Friday, between 8:80 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

## STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The Code of Student Conduct and other appropriately published rules of conduct play an important role in the university's commitment to provide for the safety and security of all its community members. Failure of

students, faculty, staff, or student organizations to comply with duly established laws or university regulations may subject violator(s) to appropriate action by university or other appropriate civil authorities. Such action might include referral to university disciplinary processes and even the possibility of arrest. MVSU does not attempt to shelter students or employees from federal, state, or local laws.

## SECURITY AWARENESS PROGRAMS

During orientation in August, students are informed of services offered by the MVSU Police Department. Students are told about crime on-campus and in surrounding neighborhoods. Similar information is presented to new employees.

Periodically during the academic year the MVSU Police, in cooperation with other university organizations and departments, present crime prevention awareness sessions on sexual assault (rape and acquaintance rape), theft, and vandalism, as well as educational sessions on personal safety and residence hall security.

## PROCEDURES FOR CAMPUS DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The victim may file a complaint against the accused either independent of, or in conjunction with, criminal or civil charges, if any, are brought against the accused. The complaint will be investigated and heard through the internal campus judicial system if the accused is an MVSU student or through other processes if the accused is a University employee.

MVSU is dedicated to providing a timely and appropriate response to complaints of sexual assault which recognizes that certain due process regulations are followed. Both parties have the right to present evidence or witnesses, and both parties have the opportunity to have immediate members of their family and/or advisor present at the hearing. Accused students will be afforded an opportunity to hear all testimony against them and question witnesses testifying against them. The accuser and the accused will be informed of the final determination of the disciplinary proceeding. The student hand book provides additional hearing

procedures and outlines the sanctions which may be applied when any disciplinary case is brought forward. In the case of an affirmative finding of sexual assault, the accused student may expect serious punishment, including expulsion from the University.

Upon request of the Vice President for Student Affairs, MVSU will change a victim's academic and/or living situation if reasonably available.

It is the intention of the University to take whatever action is needed to prevent, correct, and if necessary, discipline behavior that violates this policy. Prosecution of students for crimes they commit, whether by state or federal prosecutors, is independent of and in addition to the charges or disciplinary proceeding instituted by the University.

Students and employees of the university who engage in sexual misconduct may be disciplined or discharged, notwithstanding the judicial remedies offered by criminal authorities.

Campus disciplinary action is possible only when the complainant is willing to make a written statement describing the specific incident. The accuser and the accused are entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during university disciplinary proceeding, and both will be notified of the outcome of such proceedings. When the university determines that the presence of a student or employee would reasonably constitute a clear and present danger to the university community, the university will take immediate action to suspend the student or employee on an interim basis, pending the final outcome of disciplinary or legal proceedings.

If you are assaulted, call the MVSU Police Department as soon as possible. Try to remember as much about the assailant as possible. Characteristics important in locating and identifying suspects include sex, race, hair color, length and texture, body size, clothing, scars and other noticeable markings; mode of travel, vehicle color, type, and license plate number. In some incidents, the

victim may already know the name of the person that committed the assault. If you report an assault, the campus will be searched immediately for suspects, and neighboring police agencies will be notified.

## ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE POLICY

In support of the educational mission of Mississippi Valley State University, the following alcohol and drug policies are in place to create a safer campus environment which support the academic and social success of all students and maintain a drug-free workplace and workforce for all student and employees.

### ALCOHOL

The possession, sale or the furnishing of alcohol on the campus of MVSU is governed by MVSU's Alcohol Policy and Mississippi state law. The enforcement of alcohol laws on-campus is the primary responsibility of the MVSU Police Department. It is unlawful to sell, furnish or provide alcohol to a person under the age of 21. The possession of alcohol by anyone less than 21 years of age in a public place or a place open to the public is illegal. It is also a violation of the MVSU Alcohol Policy for anyone to consume or possess alcohol in any public or private area of campus. Organizations or groups violating alcohol/substance policies or laws may be subject to sanctions by the University

### ILLEGAL DRUGS

The MVSU Campus has been designated "Drug Free." The possession, sale manufacture or distribution of any controlled substance is illegal under both state and federal laws. Such laws are strictly enforced by the MVSU Police Department. Violators are subject to University disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, fine, imprisonment, or both.

### HEALTH RISKS

Mississippi Valley State University recognizes that illicit drug use and alcohol abuse are both prohibited and harmful. Drugs are designed to produce physical and/or psychological change(s) within the body. However, there are health risks associated with the use of illegal/illicit drugs and alcohol such as: damage to the brain; high blood pressure, seizures, strokes, heart attacks, cardiac arrest, and/or respiratory arrest; impaired judgment, loss of memory, poor hand and eye coordination and poor concentration; sleep disturbances, depression, paranoia, and anxiety. The abuse of alcohol and other drugs is not

only destructive to the physical health, but it also erodes the self-discipline and motivation necessary for learning. Pervasive drug use and alcohol abuse create an environment that is destructive to learning and working they are associated with crime and misconduct that disrupt the maintenance of an orderly and safe university atmosphere.

### VIOLATION OF POLICY

Mississippi Valley State University expects all students and university employees to adhere to the current policy. The University reserves the right to prescribe the nature and type of corrective action to be imposed on faculty, staff or students found in violation of this policy. Anyone

found in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate sanctions and penalties set forth by the university that is consistent with local, state, and federal law. Such penalties and sanctions may include but are not limited to written or oral reprimands, suspensions with or without pay, expulsion or termination.

### DESCRIPTION OF SANCTIONS

All employees/students of Mississippi Valley State University are expected to abide by the terms of this policy. An employee/student found in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate sanctions and penalties. Such penalties and sanctions may include but are not limited to referral for counseling, written or oral reprimands, suspensions with or without pay, or termination, in accordance with the established rights of the employee/student, including the right to due process. Legal sanctions as specified in Section, 37-105-9, 41-29-139, 41-29-142, and 97-29-47 of the Mississippi Code Annotated are applied to the following actions: possession of alcohol on University property; public drunkenness on University property; utilization of false ID to obtain alcohol; driving under the influence of alcohol; possession of illicit drugs; sale of illicit drugs; sale of illicit drugs near schools; possession of paraphernalia; and sale of paraphernalia. Legal sanctions under local, state, and federal laws may include fines, imprisonment, or both.

### ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE INFORMATION

The University makes available to all its students the services of the Counseling Center. On campus alcohol and drug services are provided for students that include prevention.

workshops, seminars and intervention counseling. The Counseling Center offers direct services to students experiencing problems with alcohol or substance abuse, as well as referral services to off campus alcohol and drug agencies. In addition, programs are offered in the residence halls by the substance abuse and peer educators programs sponsored by the Counseling Center.

For information on the types of educational program available, visit:

<http://www.mvsu.edu/images/admin/spotedit/attach/3>

[80/Alcohol Drug\\_PREVENTION\\_AND\\_EDUCATIONAL\\_PROGRAMS\\_2.pdf](#)

| SELF HELP AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS                                |   |
|---|---|
| Alcoholics Anonymous  | <a href="http://aa-mississippi.org">http://aa-mississippi.org</a> |
| Al-Anon (1888-4AL-Anon)   | 1-888-425-2666  |
| Life Help Mental Health Center (Alcohol/Drug Treatment Program) | 662-453-6211  |
| St. Dominic Behavioral Health Services                          | 1-800-632-5907  |
| NAMI (National Alliance Mental Illness)                         | 1-800-357-0388  |

### LAWS GOVERNING ALCOHOL

The State of Mississippi sets 21 as the minimum age to purchase or possess any alcoholic beverage. Specific ordinances regarding violations of alcohol laws, including driving while intoxicated, are available from MVSU Police Department.

## MISSING STUDENT NOTIFICATION POLICY

The Higher Education Opportunity Act which became law August 14, 2008 requires all post-secondary institutions to establish official notification policies and procedures for students who reside in on-campus housing. This policy, with its accompanying procedures, establishes a framework for cooperation among members of the University community aimed at locating and assisting students who are reported missing.

A student shall be deemed missing when he or she is absent from the University for more than 24 hours without any known reason. All reports of missing student shall be directed to MVSU Police which shall investigate each report and make a determination whether the student is missing in accordance with this policy. All students shall have the opportunity to identify an individual to be contacted by the University in case a student is determined to be missing. If a student is under 18 years of age, MVSU Police Department is required to notify the parent or guardian of the missing student not later than 24 hours after it determines that the student is missing. MVSU Police Department will also notify the Itta Bena Police not later than 24 hours after it determines that the student is missing. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall have the responsibility to make the provisions of this policy and the procedures set forth below available to students.

### NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURE

Any report of a missing student, from whatever source, should immediately be directed to MVSU Police Department.

When a student is report missing MVSU Police shall:

- Initiate an investigation to determine the validity of the missing person report
- Contact the Vice President of Student Affairs
- Make a determination as to the status of the missing student
- Notify the individual identified by the missing student as the emergency contact within 24

hours of making the determination that the student is missing.

- If the student is under the age of 18, notify the student's custodial parent or guardian listed in the records of the University within 24 hours of the determination that the student is missing
- Notify Itta Bena Police Department within 24 hours after determining that the student is missing.
- The Vice President for Student Affairs or the Chief of Police will notify the Director of Residential Life/Student Housing, and the Provost
- The Vice President for Student Affairs shall initiate whatever action he or she deems appropriate under the circumstances in the best interest of the missing student.

If the student cannot be located, and the student is determined to be missing for more than 24 hours, the Mississippi Valley State University Police Department will file a Missing Person's Report with the state of Mississippi and contact any emergency contact persons listed. This information would be disseminated through the University's e-mail and web page). The MVSU Police Department will continue an open investigation and advise local law enforcement.

### ESCORT SERVICES

Mississippi Valley State University Police escorts are available day and night on the main campus to accompany you to any on-campus location safely. To arrange this free safety service, contact the office at (662) 254-3478 or 254-3479.

## FIRE SAFETY

As a Mississippi Valley State University student you have certain rights regarding personal safety and security. In order to insure these rights for you and your fellow students, you must abide by certain policies. Fulfilling these policies and requirements is your responsibility as

a residence hall student. In all cases of fire, contact MVSU Police Department at 254-2700 immediately. The Police Department will contact the Fire Department and Facilities Management.

### FIRE ALARMS

When the fire alarm in your building sounds, it is your RESPONSIBILITY to immediately leave the building. Although some fire alarms are false or maliciously pulled as a prank, you must treat every fire alarm as if a real fire is occurring. Maliciously pulling a fire alarm is a serious offense. Not only does it disrupt the lives of every resident in the building, it also places at risk the lives of the responding fire personnel and the resident staff.

### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire extinguishers are placed in specific locations throughout each residence hall. These extinguishers are not toys and should only be used in the event of an actual fire. Misuse of a fire extinguisher is very dangerous.

### FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

Fire prevention requires the efforts and cooperation of all Mississippi Valley State University community members. As students, you are expected to adhere to strict guidelines regarding this matter. Failure to comply with these expectations will jeopardize your safety and the safety of others.

When it comes to campus fire safety, knowing your surroundings is a tremendous asset. A map of the hall and directions on where to go are a great start, but they are just that: a start. Take the time to get to know your surroundings. Go for a tour of the building and locate all of the exits and stairwells. When an emergency happens, preparation can help to avoid panic.

And since fires aren't just limited to the residence halls, the same advice goes for all other locations on campus where you will spend time. From lecture halls to cafeterias to bookstores and university centers, finding the exits and stairwells just takes a few minutes. Ideally, you will never have to use this information, but having it if you need it is a distinct advantage when it comes to campus fire safety.

- Participate in all fire drills.
- When a fire breaks out, is there a fire alarm for you to pull and where is it? What number do you call other than 911? 254-2700
- When the alarms sound, you must leave right away. Treat every alarm as real. Do not stop to put on shoes or find your sweater. Do not stop for anything you do not need to get out.
- Before opening any doors feel them to see if they are hot. If the door is hot use your second way out. Do you live on a second story? Do you have an escape ladder?
- If you do not feel heat, open the door slowly. If you feel heat or see smoke stay low to the ground and crawl toward your exits. Staying low will help to avoid the dangerous heat and smoke.
- As you leave, close doors behind you. This will help to contain the fire. Do Not Lock Doors. Never try to stay and fight a fire. Never try to return once you have escaped.
- Assist the handicapped in exiting the building. Do not use the elevators during a fire or fire drill.
- Once outside, move to a clear area at least 500 feet away from the affected building.
- Keep streets, fire lanes, hydrants and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and crews

If you cannot get out then follow these steps:

- Keep the door closed, seal cracks and vents to keep smoke from entering. If you do not see smoke outside your window, open it slightly to let fresh air in.
- Signal for help – yell or scream to attract attention. Hang an object from the window that can easily be seen.
- If you have a phone, call the fire department and report that you are trapped. Be sure to give your room number and location.

### PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATION

The vehicles operated on the campus of MVSU must display the appropriate university decal or parking permit. The Cashier's Office located on the first floor of the William Sutton Administration Building handles all vehicle registrations for students and employees.

**PARKING PERMITS AND DECALS**

Vehicles operated on the campus of MVSU must display the appropriate university decal or permit. All employees and enrolled students, full-time or part-time, must register vehicles to receive a decal.

All visitors arriving on campus should obtain parking information and register for a visitor’s permit. Visitor parking is permitted in General Parking areas.

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

The following items are needed for Vehicle Registration

- Valid driver’s license
- MVSU I.D. Card
- Proof of insurance

**PARKING DECALS & PARKING LOTS SIGNAGE**

Parking lot designation signage is color-coded and numbered to match specific decal assignments. Gold – Faculty and Staff; Blue – Residential Halls/Males; Red – Residential Halls/Females; Green – Visitors.

**WHERE TO PARK**

A regular employee or student decal does not guarantee available parking space contiguous to an employee’s work site or to a student’s classroom. Overflow parking is available at various lots throughout campus. Student residents must leave their vehicle parked at their dorm during the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**HANDICAPPED SPACES**

Employees, students or visitors needing handicap accommodations are encouraged to contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 662-254-3443.

**PARKING CITATION FINES**

Citations may be paid by cash, check, money order, or credit card at the Cashier’s window between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

**TOWING AND IMMOBILIZATION OPERATION**

The MVSU Police Department is authorized to enforce parking and traffic regulation directly and immediately

on campus via citation issuance and /or towing/immobilization.

Vehicle towing and immobilization are utilized as enforcement tools to control traffic, address frequent violators, aid in collections efforts, and provide a greater degree of accessible parking in the campus parking lots.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to obey parking rules and regulations. Violations could result in having your vehicle immobilized or towed if necessary.

**CAMPUS**

| Violation                             | Fine    |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Reserved for Handicapped              | \$50.00 |
| Blocking Handicap Ramps               | \$30.00 |
| No Campus Decal (Permit)              | \$25.00 |
| Failure to Stop/Yield for Blue Lights | \$25.00 |
| Running Stop Signs                    | \$20.00 |
| Improper Parking                      | \$20.00 |
| Parking in Fire Lane                  | \$20.00 |
| Meter Violation                       | \$20.00 |
| Zone Violation                        | \$25.00 |
|                                       |         |

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Wheel Lock                | \$30.00 |
| Reserve Parking Violation | \$25.00 |
| Restricted Parking        | \$20.00 |
| Careless Driving          | \$20.00 |
| One –Way Violation        | \$20.00 |
| Parking on Grass          | \$20.00 |
| All Other Violations      | \$20.00 |
| Appeal Traffic Citation   | \$25.00 |

### CITATION APPEALS

Citation must be paid or appealed within five (5) working days from the issue date. After five (5) working days from the issue date of the citation, the right to appeal is forfeited. The Appeal Process is afforded to persons wishing to contest the citation and begins with the completion and submission of an appeals form available at MVSU Police Department.

## HATE CRIMES

It is the policy of Mississippi Valley State University Police Department to safeguard the state and federal rights of all individuals irrespective to their race, religion, ethnic background, disability or sexual orientation. Any acts of threats of violence, property damage, harassment, intimidation or other crimes designed to infringe upon these rights are viewed very seriously by the university.

### HATE CRIME

A hate crime is a criminal offense or attempted criminal act against an individual or group because of their actual or perceived race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender or disability.

Pursuant to the Campus Security Act (20USC § 1092), state and local hate crimes legislation list specific crimes which are identifiable as a hate crime, including murder, manslaughter, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, for

### REPORTING A HATE CRIME

If you witness a hate crime or you are the victim of a hate crime, contact the MVSU Police Department at 254-2700 immediately.

### HOW TO RECORD THE DETAILS

- Write down exactly what happened. Be as specific as possible
- Record exactly where and when the incident occurred.
- If anyone was with you or saw what happened, record their names and telephone numbers. Ask them to write an account of what they witnessed, and sign and date the document.
- Record the names or detailed descriptions of the perpetrators.
- Make photocopies of hate mail or other documents
- Keep a careful log of hate calls, and make a tape recording of hate calls on your answering machine.
- Photograph physical injuries, offensive graffiti, and evidence of vandalism.

### EXAMPLES OF A HATE CRIME

- Graffiti
- Verbal intimidation or threats
- Hate mail (including electronic mail)
- Property damage

- Harassment
- Trespassing and stalking
- Physical assaults and threats
- Arson
- Attacks with weapons
- Murder

## Online Reports

Current Cleary Act Data can be found  
Online at

<http://www.mvsu.edu/upd/clery-act.php>

[http://www.mvsu.edu/upd/crime-  
log.php](http://www.mvsu.edu/upd/crime-log.php)

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Campus Safety – Your Right to Know

2016