Updating the Committee

This publication will help those of you on the Clery Compliance Committee understand what is happening and how you can help with compliance.

The intention of this publication is to keep the UM Clery Compliance Committee apprised of, and educated on, different topics of Clery Compliance. It is not always possible to bring the entire Clery Compliance Committee together for a face-to-face meeting, and with COVID-19, it isn’t safe.

In this publication, we discuss the importance of Campus Security Authorities and where we are in the yearly process of identifying, notifying, and training our UM Campus Security Authorities (CSAs).

The UM Clery Core Team would first like to offer our thanks for the help we have received from across campus in assisting us with this task. Requests for updated lists were sent out on Aug. 4, 2020, with a request to have these lists returned by Aug. 28, 2020. We have received updated lists from nearly every group we contacted. It is important to have these lists early in September so that we can start the process of notification and training.

We greatly appreciate all of the help we have received so far, especially from our Primary CSAs. With your assistance, we have identified a greater number of CSAs than any previous year.
THE IMPORTANCE OF CSAS

CSAs are essential to the UM community as they are a source of information for the gathering of crime statistics. It is crucial to provide UM students, staff, and faculty options other than the police to report crimes and CSAs play a considerable role in that capacity.

Identifying CSAs is not a difficult process. If you have any questions about how you can better identify CSAs who work for you, we created a brief video to walk you through the steps in making that determination. This video can be found on the UMPD website by clicking “How to Identify Campus Security Authorities”.

If after watching the video you have more questions, please feel free to contact me, Lt. Brad Giffin, UMPD at 406-243-4040 or by email at brad.giffin@mso.umt.edu.

NOTIFICATION & TRAINING

Once we have identified all CSAs for this year, we will be sending out a notification to the individuals notifying them that they are a CSA and what that entails. The notification will include a link to the mandatory online training each CSA must complete. This training is essential as it outlines the responsibilities and duties of a CSA, which in turn ensures that UM is taking appropriate steps when crimes are reported. Training must be completed by Oct. 15, 2020, to ensure that UM is in compliance with the law.

TIMELY WARNING SUCCESS

On April 10, 2020, at about 14:30 hours, the University of Montana Police Department Issued a Timely Warning for an Aggravated Assault on Mount Sentinel. Within minutes of issuing this warning, UMPD received information that lead to the location of critical evidence for this case. It also provided UMPD with other critical information, which allowed all first responders to react to the call with greater efficiency. This information contributed to the arrest of the suspect in a timely fashion. UM’s Timely Warning Notice was a critical piece of this case, and proof of how effect messaging makes the UM campus safer.
The Department of Education understands that postsecondary institutions and their students continue to face challenges because of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This guidance provides additional regulatory flexibilities in accordance with President Trump’s declaration of a national emergency due to Coronavirus/COVID-19 on March 13, 2020, and the authority provided to the Secretary of Education in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136, signed by the President on March 27, 2020. The extended deadline for publishing our Annual Security and Fire Safety Report (ASFSR) is Dec. 31, 2020. Read the complete notice from the Department of Education here.

In other Clery Compliance News, we would like to share that the University of Montana was selected as this year’s winner of the Most Improved Clery Program Awarded by the National Association of Clery Compliance Officers & Professionals (NACCOP). UM’s Core Team is very proud of this accomplishment and would like to thank all those from across campus for helping us achieve this award. With this type of progress we will meet our goal of being the best Clery program of the year soon.

Quick Points of Improvement

- Better statistical gathering from various entities on campus
- Improvement with Clery geography mapping
- Better procedures for Timely Warnings and Emergency Notifications
- More regular meetings with key stakeholders, Title IX, SARC, Housing and others
- Better process for identifying Campus Security Authorities
- The creation of the Clery Compliance Committee
- Hiring a Clery Compliance Professional - We are currently conducting initial interviews for this position and hope to have this person in place by October.

Contact Us

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Read the complete notice from the Department of Education here.