

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

# Clery Compliance Committee

## UM ALERTS & WHAT THEY MEAN



UM CLERY NEWS | WINTER 2020 QUARTERLY

## 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 Emergency Notifications and Timely Warnings. The University is obligated to issue these alerts when certain situations are confirmed on our campus.

This winter UM has seen quite a bit of Emergency Notification activity with the numerous bear encounters across campus. Although these alerts/notifications are often redundant, and often seem unnecessary, they are legally required.

With the information in this newsletter we hope the Clery Compliance Committee can assist the Clery Core Team in helping educate UM students, staff and faculty about what these notices/alerts are and why they are important and necessary.





## ALERTING THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

The HEA Higher Education Act of 1965 has specific requirements intended to help keep our students and employees informed about threats to their safety and health in a manner that allows them to protect themselves.

The Clery Act requires every Title IV institution, without exception, to have and disclose emergency response and evacuation procedures that would be used in response to a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees occurring on the campus.

The emergency response and evacuation requirements are intended to ensure that our institution has sufficiently prepared for an emergency situation on campus, that we are testing these procedures to identify and improve any weaknesses and that we have considered how we will inform the campus community and other individuals, such as parents and guardians, in the event of an emergency.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Emergency Notifications are important because they identify situations that are **currently occurring on campus**. Under the Clery Act, every institution is required to immediately notify the campus community upon confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation occurring on the campus that involves an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees. An "immediate" threat as used here includes an imminent or impending threat, such as an approaching forest fire, or a fire currently raging in one of your buildings. Emergency notifications will advise you of a potential safety action, such as **LOCK DOWN, LOCKOUT, SHELTER IN PLACE, EVACUATE** or some other action like, stay clear of the area.

The University of Montana alerts the campus about these events by text messages and email notifications. All students, staff and faculty receive these notices automatically without opting in. Because the warning is required there is not an option to opt out of the email message. People can **opt out of the text messaging**, however that is strongly discouraged as it is the quickest way to be notified of emergency situations.

# TIMELY WARNINGS

Timely Warnings are different from Emergency Notifications in they advise the campus community of a criminal event that has already occurred.

All of us want to be alerted promptly to potentially dangerous criminal situations near our homes or workplaces so that we have both the time and the information necessary to take appropriate precautions. Apply this to our institution and you have the concept of the “timely warning.” The Clery Act requires the University to alert the campus community to certain crimes in a manner that is timely and will aid in the prevention of similar crimes. Although the Clery Act doesn’t define “timely,” the intent of a warning regarding a criminal incident(s) is to enable people to protect themselves. This means that a warning should be issued as soon as pertinent information is available. The University must issue a timely warning for all Clery Act crimes that occur on UM geography.



# SORTING OUT THE DIFFERENCES

	EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS	TIMELY WARNINGS
<b>SCOPE</b>	Wide focus on any significant emergency or dangerous situation (may include Clery Act crimes)	Narrow focus on Clery Act crimes.
<b>WHY</b>	Emergency notification is triggered by an event that is currently occurring on or imminently threatening the campus. Initiate emergency notification procedures for any significant emergency or dangerous situation occurring on the campus involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees.	Timely warnings are triggered by crimes that have already occurred but represent an ongoing threat. Issue a timely warning for any Clery Act crime committed on your Clery Act geography that is reported to your campus security authorities or a local law enforcement agency, and that is considered by the institution to represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees.
<b>WHERE</b>	Applies to situations that occur on your campus.	Applies to crimes that occur anywhere on your Clery Act geography
<b>WHEN</b>	Initiate procedures immediately upon confirmation that a dangerous situation or emergency exists or threatens.	Issue a warning as soon as the pertinent information is available.



# UM PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICES

Emergency Notifications and Timely Warnings are both required by federal law but they do not cover every possible situation. The University of Montana has opted to include one additional notification to help keep the campus safe and inform the campus community.

UM Public Safety Notices are used to inform the campus community of situations that do not fall into either the Clery Act Emergency Notification or Timely Warning definitions. We issue these warnings at our discretion and evaluate the need to alert the community against the situation the campus is dealing with.

As an example, there may be a significant and dangerous situation developing that is not occurring on the UM campus, is not a Clery Act Crime, but may potentially impact UM students, staff and faculty.

In any event, the Clery Core Team feels that it is important for the entire campus community to understand these notices and fully comprehend what they mean. All of our messaging is designed to keep our campus community safe and informed.

**Knowing what they mean will help keep you safe in a dangerous and ongoing situation!**

## UM'S NEW CLERY COMPLIANCE PROFESSIONAL



The University is pleased to announce that Kelly Magnuson, associate director of the Office for Community Standards, has been selected to serve as UM's Clery compliance professional following the conclusion of a competitive national search.

Magnuson has been part of the UM family since 1996, holding positions as program coordinator and assistant director with UM Housing. Most recently, she has helped reinvigorate the campus community standards process and was instrumental in completion of the recent revision of the Student Code of Conduct. Magnuson brings a wealth of experience to this position, has extensive experience directly related to Clery compliance and has served on the Clery Core Team since its inception. She will begin her new duties later this month.

**CONGRATULATIONS, KELLY!**



## CONTACT US

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