

# University of Connecticut Timely Warning Notice Protocol

Timely Warning Notices, also called "Crime Alerts", are provided to heighten safety awareness by giving the campus community notification of reported crimes that occur within or near campus property. Crime alerts are required by federal law under the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act") when the university becomes aware of a crime that is deemed to present a serious or continuing threat to students or other members of the campus community. Though Crime Alerts are required only for those crimes specified in the Clery Act, the University may in its discretion issue a Crime Alert for other crimes. The intent of a Crime Alert is to enable people to protect themselves and to aid in the prevention of similar crimes. Crime Alerts also seek information that may lead to arrest and conviction of the offender.

University of Connecticut Police (UConn Police) are responsible for preparing Crime Alerts. The Director of Public Safety or a designee will develop and authorize dissemination of information to be included in the Crime Alert. The decision to issue a Crime Alert, and the information included therein, may be based on the information reported as well as other information known to the UConn Police. UConn Police may consult with appropriate individuals or offices to determine whether an incident represents a serious or continuing threat and/or to determine the appropriate content of a Crime Alert.

UConn Police make every effort to properly classify a criminal incident when issuing a Crime Alert. Further analysis and investigation may cause the UConn Police to revise its initial classification. When a Crime Alert is issued for a crime that is not required to be reported under the Clery Act, the incident will not be reflected in the crime statistics provided in the Annual Security and Fire Report.

Every attempt will be made to distribute the alert as soon as possible after an incident or series of incidents is reported and determined to represent a continuing threat to students and/or other members of the campus community. This determination is made on a case-by-case basis after considering the nature of the crime, the facts of the case and any other information known to UConn Police. In those cases where the reported crime occurs between two individuals who know each other, UConn Police will look at the totality of the circumstances in determining whether there is an ongoing threat to others.

Generally, a Crime Alert will include a succinct statement of the incident, the time and location at which the reported crime occurred, and specific safety advice to the campus community or other safety resources.

Information in a Crime Alert may also include:

- Possible connection to previous incidents.

- Physical description of the suspect.
- Photo or composite drawing of the suspect.
- Other relevant and important information about the crime(s).
- Actions taken by Public Safety officials in response to the crime(s).

UConn Police may omit known information in a Crime Alert if providing that information could risk compromising law enforcement efforts.

Crime Alerts are distributed community wide by e-mail to all faculty, staff and students. UConn Police may distribute fliers to appropriate university departments to be posted in affected areas of campus. Police may also contact the media directly to distribute information about criminal incidents in some situations.

Crime Alerts may be updated if new or more accurate information becomes available to UConn Police. UConn Police will provide follow-up information regarding the status of the incident.

It should be noted that a Crime Alert is different from an Emergency Notification. An Emergency Notification is used only in the event of a significant campus emergency. The University is required to send an Emergency Notification upon confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate or impending threat to the health or safety of the campus community. An Emergency Alert will be sent via multiple methods of instant communication, such as and text messages, e-mails, social media and the Alert website at: <http://alert.uconn.edu> .

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