



Texas A&M University-Commerce Campus Safety Action Plan

2/18/2020

(Updates from 2/5/2020 version highlighted and bolded in red)

The health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff is our number one priority at Texas A&M University-Commerce. This plan demonstrates our commitment to continually assess and improve our facilities, policies, and procedures to ensure our campus is safe and secure. In an effort to be open and transparent with members of our campus community, this plan will be posted on our university website. The status of each of the action items listed below will be updated on a monthly basis for all to monitor our progress.

Texas A&M University-Commerce is committed to:

1. Increase the number of campus-wide patrols by University Police Department personnel, with a priority on residential living areas **(Initiated and will be ongoing)**
2. Expand a campus-wide campaign to increase student, faculty and staff participation in the Pride Alert Warning System (PAWS) and Lion Safe app **(Initiated and will be ongoing)**
3. Hire additional personnel to staff the front desks at each of our residence halls to monitor 24-hour controlled-access **(Initiated. Currently staffed 8 AM – midnight. Actively recruiting personnel to staff the front desks of residence from midnight – 8 AM. Will be fully implemented by the end of the Spring 2020 semester)**
4. **Place turnstiles (with software) in each of the residence halls (where appropriate) to control the access of students/guests (Developing plans to reconfigure entrances in the residence halls to accommodate the turnstiles, and to facilitate the proper check-in of guests. Turnstiles will be placed in Pride Rock and Whitley Halls during the Fall 2020 semester).**
5. Increase the frequency of inspections to ensure that access control hardware and software is functioning properly on all campus buildings **(Initiated. Custodial staff now perform checks twice a day. University safety personnel perform checks once a week).**

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6. **Increase the number of surveillance cameras in common areas and stairwells of the residence halls, as well as sidewalks and parking lots across campus. (Initiated an assessment of surveillance coverage to be completed by the end of Spring 2020).**
7. Improve **interior** campus-wide lighting, with particular attention to high student traffic and residential living areas (Initiated; this will be a phased project – Phase I of improvements will be completed by Spring Break 2020; Phase II to be completed by the start of the Fall 2020 semester; Phase III to be completed by the end of the Fall 2020 semester)
8. **Work with the City of Commerce to increase lighting around the periphery of campus, particularly along Bryan St., Cooper St. and Lee St. (Will be completed by the end of the Fall 2020 semester)**
9. Work with the Texas Department of Transportation to improve safety along Highway 24/50 (Initiated; meetings with TxDOT initiated and ongoing; this will be a multi-year project)
10. Expand the hours for shuttle services on campus (Completed. **Two on-campus shuttles now run 7 AM – 10 PM**)
11. Create a campus-wide safe-walk/buddy system program to provide safe travel for students between locations on campus (Initiated; currently hiring and training for full implementation by March 2020)
12. Conduct focus groups hosted by our University Police Department to hear student and community concerns and respond appropriately (Ongoing; next event March 4, 2020; scheduled quarterly moving forward)
13. Increase safety training and information sessions for students, faculty and staff (Ongoing; establishing an ongoing monthly schedule)
14. **Formalize the Building Emergency Coordinator (BEC) program to create a direct line of communication between each building and the emergency response personnel during campus emergencies. (Initiated. Completed by the end of the Spring 2020 semester).**
15. **Establish a Safety Advisory Group comprised of students, faculty and staff, which provides input to safety and emergency-related issues on campus. (Initiated. Committee will be formed and have its first quarterly meeting by the end of the Spring 2020 semester).**

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16. Invite the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service to perform a review of our safety-related plans, policies, procedures and facilities at the university **(Initiated; review to start February 2020 with report to be issued by the end of March 2020)**

Contact Information:

In case of an emergency, dial 911

For non-emergency assistance, or to report other safety or security concerns, call the main University Police Department any time at (903) 886-5868

For comments, suggestions, or recommendations related to this Campus Safety Action Plan, please contact Vanessa Armendariz in the President's Office at (903) 886-5009, or email the President directly at mark.rudin@tamuc.edu

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