

SAFETY MESSAGE



Dear Campus Community,

The following information is being shared to enhance your personal safety at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and in compliance with the Clery Act, a federal law requiring universities to disclose information about crimes on or near their campus and to provide safety tips related to those crimes. The goal is to provide information so the UNL community can take precautions for their own safety. Information reported in this message is based on the situation as currently known to University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department and may have not yet been thoroughly investigated or confirmed.

A timely warning is being issued in connection to a sexual assault reported to University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department February 29, 2020.

UNLPD is investigating the incident which was reported to have happened during the early morning hours of February 28, 2020 on the UNL campus.

The exact time and location of the occurrence is currently unknown. The assailant is known to the victim, but the identity and residence of the assailant have not been disclosed to police.

The location of the sexual assault was described as a UNL residence hall.

The male suspect has not been identified as of this timely warning.

Related UNLPD Case Number: 20000769

Personal Safety Tips

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln firmly believes a crime survivor is never responsible for the other person's actions or criminal conduct and it is the fault of the perpetrator alone. The UNLPD is providing the following safety tips in an effort to assist the University community with taking the necessary precautions.

- When you are going out, create a plan beforehand. If going out alone, make sure someone knows where you are going, who you will be with, and when you expect to arrive and return. Make sure you have your cell phone and it is fully charged before going out
- Perpetrators take advantage of vulnerability and seek opportunities to commit sexual assaults. If you ever feel uncomfortable in a situation or with a person, or someone is behaving disrespectfully, remove yourself from the situation, especially if you are concerned it may become physical. If necessary, create a distraction, and if able, involve others and attract attention to yourself in any way you can.

- Sexual assault is any sexual activity that occurs in the absence of consent. Do not engage in sexual activities without consent from your partner(s). This includes each type of sexual activity that takes place, as consent to one type does not automatically mean consent is given for another type of activity. Do not just assume you know what the other person wants. Be aware that anyone incapacitated by alcohol or other substances may not be able to provide consent.
- Alcohol is frequently used to facilitate sexual violence by reducing a person's ability to respond effectively, impairing memory, and increasing feelings of self-doubt or blame. Studies of sexual assault incidents show a high correlation between acquaintance rape and drug/alcohol usage. When drinking, consider your surroundings, be aware of personal limits, and look after friends who appear to be intoxicated. Be alert to people pressuring you or others to use alcohol or other drugs.
- Get your own drinks. Never accept a drink from an unknown source, let someone continually fill your cup, or leave your drink unattended. If you start to feel ill or disoriented, seek help from friends or contact emergency services for help.
- If you see someone who appears disoriented or unable to care for themselves, you should consider it an emergency and act to support that person. You can call the UNLPD or ask for help from other people, intervene directly if safe to do so, or create a distraction to help remove the potential victim from the situation.
- Listen, believe, and support someone who discloses victimization. Never blame the victim. If they feel comfortable enough to tell you about it, it means they are counting on your help.
- If you experience sexual assault and need help or someone to aid you in navigating the situation, you can contact any of the following resources:
 - Local Hospital Emergency Rooms
 - Bryan Health West: 2300 S. 16th St. – 402.481.5142
 - Bryan Health East: 1600 S. 48th St. – 402.481.3142
 - CHI Health: 555 S. 70th St. – 402.486.7142
 - CARE Advocates at 402.472.3553 (<https://care.unl.edu/>)
 - Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 402.472.7450
 - Friendship Home at 402.437.9302
 - Voices of Hope at 402.475.7273
 - National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline at 800.656.4673

Crime prevention and awareness, as well as consistent reporting, may be the strongest defenses against becoming a victim. Please call UNLPD immediately at 402-472-2222 (2-2222 on campus) to report information on this incident, or on any crime or suspicious activity or person. If you have any questions about this message, please contact the UNLPD at the phone number above or email unl.police@unl.edu.

