

SAFETY MESSAGE



Dear Campus Community,

The following information is being shared to enhance your personal safety at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The goal is to provide information so the UNL community has awareness of the situation and can take precautions for their own safety, as well as to encourage reporting of similar situations to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police. Information reported in this message is based on the situation as currently known to UNLPD.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department is investigating a first-degree sex assault reported to have occurred between midnight and 4 a.m. Sunday, March 17, 2024 in a resident's room in Abel Hall.

The suspect utilized a dating app to communicate with the survivor and is described as a male approximately 21-years-old with a light to medium complexion and dark hair. He was last seen wearing a white T-shirt and dark pants driving a white Jeep Cherokee.

Related UNLPD Case Number is 24000795.

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:

- Rape and sexual assault are never the fault of the survivor. Responsibility lies with the perpetrator. No one deserves, asks for, or provokes sexual assault.
- If you are going out, make a plan beforehand. If going as a group, use the buddy system and watch out for each other. If you say you will look out for someone, follow through. If going out alone, make sure that someone knows where you are going, who you will be with, and when you expect to arrive and return. Set up times to check in with each other. 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 that situation, especially if you are concerned it may become physical. If necessary, create a distraction, and if able, involve others. If you do get into trouble, attract attention to yourself in any way you can.
- Most sexual assaults are committed by an acquaintance or someone the victim knows. If you engage in sex, be sure you understand your partner's limits and communicate your own sexual limits. Practice being assertive about your boundaries and never feel obligated to do anything you do not want to do. "I don't want to" is always a good enough reason and your wishes should be respected. If your feelings are not being respected, that is a sign it may be best to remove yourself from the situation.
- Sexual assault is any sexual activity that occurs without consent. Do not engage in sexual activities without consent from your partner(s). Consent to one type of activity does not automatically mean consent for another. Do not assume you know what the other person wants. Someone incapacitated by alcohol or other substance cannot give consent.
- Alcohol is frequently used to facilitate sexual violence by reducing a person's ability to respond effectively. Studies of sexual assaults show a high correlation between acquaintance rape and drug/alcohol usage. When drinking, consider your surroundings, be aware of personal limits, and be alert to people pressuring you to use alcohol or other drugs.
- Get your own drinks. Never accept a drink from an unknown source, let someone else 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, ask for help from other people, or intervene directly to remove the potential victim from the situation if safe to do so.

- Listen, believe, and support someone who discloses a sexual assault. Remember, sexual assault is not the survivor's fault. If they feel comfortable enough to tell you about it, they may be in need of support.
- If you experience sexual assault, you can contact any of the following resources in addition to law enforcement:
 - University Health Center
 - [Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner \(SANE\) Services](#) are available Mon-Fri 8:00am to 5:00pm
 - 550 N 19th St – 402.472-5000
 - 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
 - Advocacy resources
 - 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
- A list of campus safety resources can be found at <https://safety.unl.edu>.

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.

