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Message from the Chief

CPSO Director Phil Zerzan

As we begin a new year as well as a new term we have the opportunity to look forward with optimism and reflect back thoughtfully. 2012 brought many challenges to the Portland State University Campus Public Safety Office, including media coverage of an armed and dangerous criminal threatening the life of a Campus Public Safety Officer near Epler Hall, and other high profile criminal cases on campus. The year finished with the disturbing reports of active shooters in the Clackamas Town Center mall, and the unfathomable tragedy in an elementary school in Connecticut. While prevention and intervention remain the most effective method of preventing similar tragedies, we should all have a plan on how to respond. The Campus Public Safety website (pdx.edu/cpso) contains information on what to do in the event of an active shooter and includes the film Run, Hide, Fight. This film was produced in cooperation with the City of Houston and the Department of Homeland Security and provides valuable information.

PSU Alert remains the best way to receive timely information on campus for a myriad of events and I encourage everyone to sign up for this service.

Finally, the end of the year brought much discussion about what the Campus Public Safety Office should look like for the future of providing law enforcement services to our community. Please become informed about this important discussion, and provide thoughtful input for the future of the university.

.....Chief Phil Zerzan

Expanding Services

CPSO is increasing our manpower to help meet the demands of policing in a 21st century urban University environment. Traditionally, CPSO has never had many officers. Staffing levels in the 70’s were maintained until very recently. With increases in demand and complexity, CPSO must grow and evolve with the times.

Patrol Services

The backbone to any law enforcement program are the boots on the ground. Our officers enjoy extensive in-house training in addition to academy training they all receive before being released on their own.

There are currently 13 commissioned Public Safety Officers working for CPSO who have completed training. Recently, CPSO has hired an additional three patrol officers and a fully qualified criminal detective, which will bring our commissioned force up to 17 members.

The New Faces in Uniform

This year, CPSO is welcoming several new staff members into our public safety family.

Officer Peter Ward has joined us recently and is partially through his training period. He hails from Great Britain, where he was a distinguished police officer for 32 years. He moved to the United States in 2007 and worked for Portland and Tigard Police before joining Portland State CPSO.

Officer Brenton Chose joins us after working as a National Forest Wilderness Ranger, a National Park Service ranger and a city of Portland Park Ranger. He has a Bachelor’s degree from Oregon State University and enjoys trail running, reading and travel.
Officer Jonathan Buck served in the army for 12 years, where he was deployed to Iraq three times. He attended PSU and graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice. Then, he went on to work for the PPI Clean and Safe program for a year before joining CPSO.

Student Officer Erika Gehrke is currently a PSU Criminal Justice major. She will be helping us with community service, reception and Lost & Found. You will see her walking around campus, so please don’t hesitate to say hello!

The Detective
For the first time in our history, CPSO has retained a fully qualified Criminal Detective. Detective Matt Horton joins us after retiring from Portland Police Bureau, where he also served as a criminal detective. Matt will be taking point on serious crime investigating, responding 24/7 to emergencies requiring his services. With a Detective on board to coordinate with Portland Police detectives, CPSO will enjoy increased investigative capabilities, particularly regarding investigations of sexual assault or abuse.

CPSO Dispatch
The Campus Public Safety Office at Portland State University houses a state-of-the-art emergency communications center, commonly known as “CPSO Dispatch.” This center is always staffed by at least one fully trained and qualified campus dispatcher, 24 hours a day. Students and the public can contact dispatch by phone, email or in person at any time.

Who we Are
In the 21st century, public safety communications has become far more complicated and sophisticated than in decades past. No longer can “just anyone” be a dispatcher. CPSO dispatchers are required to maintain certification standards, with each attending the Oregon Police Academy Basic Telecommunicator course. Each dispatcher also maintains core competencies, participating in annual emergency drills, spending time riding with CPSO officers and sitting along with dispatchers at a 911 center. On the job training includes an initial instruction period not less than 4 weeks, with additional time under observation. Some training offered to our dispatchers includes crisis communications, emergency response coordination, incident command series and disaster response.

What We Do
Dispatch is the first avenue of access for most students to reach Public Safety. Our dispatchers answer calls for service, providing information to callers and relaying pertinent data to first responders. Dispatchers also provide a vital link to patrol officers, checking to make sure that they’re safe and arranging whatever assistance the officers might need. For emergency responses, dispatch will coordinate the assets being requested, to ensure all responders are all working together according to the same plan.

Come See Us!
If you would like to visit our dispatch center, or have questions, please contact us using the email “cpso@pdx.edu” or by calling our dispatch center at 503.725.4404. We are always available.
CPSO is Going Green!

Green Technologies for a Green Future
Portland State University has often been recognized for development of strategies geared to lessen our energy consumption and embrace renewable energies. The PSU Campus Public Safety Office is committed to reduction of waste and increased efficiency in operations. To that end, CPSO has obtained an all-electric Toyota Rav 4 SUV, supplied by the Toyota Corporation in cooperation with PSU Transportation & Parking Services.

Fully Electric
Fully electric cars run off power stored in the battery and do not need any fuels. A large-paddle inductive charging system allows the car battery to be charged within a couple hours. Each charge is capable of propelling the car about 60 miles, depending on driving habits and road conditions.

The RAV4 EV has an advanced regenerative braking system, allowing the driver to engage two different generators on demand to recapture some of the energy involved in breaking. Generators can also be disengaged to reduce resistance while driving on the freeway.

EV cars, such as the Rav 4, generally have two gears...forward and reverse. Since there aren’t multiple forward drive gears, the Rav 4 has a near-constant acceleration curve up to the maximum cruising speed.

Silent, Comfortable and Well-Equipped
EV cars generally run nearly silent, which makes the EV car an ideal vehicle for quiet patrolling. The short turning radius compliments its small size, making the car highly maneuverable, particularly inside parking garages.

While the vehicle doesn’t run on gasoline, it is still a fully functional road car. The Toyota Rav4 EV car has everything you would expect out of a small SUV. Heating, air-conditioning and power windows and door locks make this a comfortable ride for CPSO staff.

CPSO has added some non-permanent equipment as well. While the EV car technically is not an “emergency vehicle” under statute, it does have a radio and strobe lights front and back, for such functions as traffic control, evacuation assistance or urgent responses. There is no siren in this vehicle.

Wave of the Future?
Currently, all-electric vehicles cannot fulfill all our transportation needs. Patrol vehicles need to be able to quickly refuel, without taking a couple hours to do so. Additionally, emergency response vehicles need to be functional without worrying about sufficient battery charge on lengthy responses. Longer-life battery packs and faster charging methods will improve on this in the future.

The EV car is a valuable tool for those tasks that don’t require a full emergency vehicle or significant travel off campus. For basic tasks and responses, the EV is an ideal option for the “green” law enforcement agency trying to save on their transportation costs and reduce their carbon footprint.

Would you like to see CPSO’s EV car? Drop a note to cpso@pdx.edu to arrange a demo.
PSU ALERT

Portland State University offers an emergency notification system to students, faculty and staff called PSU ALERT. This optional service is implemented to transmit safety information in the event of an incident that impedes normal campus operations, (ie inclement weather).

Specifically, PSU ALERT enables PSU to send important alerts and updates to your preferred point of contact (cell, home phone, email or text). There is no charge for signing up; however, standard phone/text messaging rates may apply per your agreement with your carrier.

In order to “OPT-IN” or alter your PSU Alert account:
- Sign in to Banweb using your ODIN account login information
- Click on "Personal Information"
- Then click "PSU Alert Emergency Notification System"
- Enter the fields that you would like to receive a notification upon: (Phone, Text, E-mail)

Blue Phone Upgrade

This past June, the Campus Public Safety Office (CPSO) worked with Facilities and Network & Telecom Services to upgrade Campus Blue Phones. Specifically, Bryant Haley (Emergency Management Coordinator) applied for and received a Federal Emergency Management Agency: Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant to cover 75% of the project. The project upgraded outdated Blue Phones to include a Public Address feature. The Public Address system will audibly broadcast information to all persons in the University district. This summer CPSO will test the system to ensure its effectiveness. All tests will be announced via campus email. For a list of locations see for more information:

- Millar Library - 2nd Floor, 3rd Floor, 4th Floor, 5th Floor, Elevator
- Neuberger Hall - 2nd Floor, Elevator
- Parking Structure 1 - Elevator
- Parking Structure 3 - Elevator
- Peter W. Stott Center - Pool
- School of Education/School of Business Admin - Elevators
- Science Building 1 - 2nd Fl., 3rd Fl., 4th Fl., 5th Fl., Basement, Elevator
- Science Building 2 - 2nd Fl. (East & West), 3rd Fl. (East & West), Elevator
- Shattuck Hall - 1st Floor, Elevator
- Smith Memorial Building - 2nd Fl., 4th Fl., Basement, Elevator
- University Center Building - 1st Floor, Elevator
- University Service Building - Elevator
- Urban Center - 2nd Floor, Elevator

Blue Light Phones

They are located Outside of Buildings for Immediate Emergency Dispatch of Officers

- Outside - Cramer Hall/Lincoln Hall
- Outside - Neuberger Hall/Smith Memorial Student Union
- Outside - Shattuck Hall/Neuberger Hall
- Outside - Urban Center
- Parking Structure 1 - 1st Fl. 6th Ave, 1st Fl. (SW), 2nd Fl., 4th Fl., 6th Fl.
- Parking Structure 2 - 1st Level, 4th Level
- Parking Structure 3 - 1st Floor, 3rd Floor
- Peter W. Stott Center – Outside

Emergency Phones

They are located inside buildings and automatically connects to campus dispatch

- Art Building - Elevator
- Broadway - Elevators
- Cramer Hall - Elevators
- Distance Learning Center - Elevator
- Engineering Building - Elevators
- Fourth Ave Building - Elevators, P-1

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