

THE CHIEF'S Brief

JANUARY 2023



What we've been up to:

Welcome to this month's Chief's Brief. This is a monthly feature to let you, the Lion Community, know what has been happening on campus, where you can meet an officer, answer any questions you have about your University Police Department (UPD), and to offer a monthly safety tip.

First, I would like to welcome all of our returning students back to campus for an exciting spring semester. During the break, UPD has been getting ready for your return. From planning new events and making sure our campus continues to be a safe environment, to working with our campus partners in addressing the needs of our community, we're ready for you!

As we bring in the new year I wanted to pass along last year's activity for UPD. Nationally, crime statistics are on the rise; however, our stats are trending down. Officers have worked hard to be proactive, build relationships, and keep the campus community safe.

- Overall, crime is down by 14.3% on campus.
- The number of reports taken by UPD are down 7.5%.

UPD did see a rise in non-criminal events such as medical calls and calls in assisting the University Counseling Center. You can look at the rise in two ways. One, we have had more incidents. Two, and what I believe to be the factor, the University Counseling Center are connecting with more students and they feel more comfortable asking for help.

The Lion Safe App, which was only fully active for half of 2022, saw remarkable usage. From August 2022 to December 2022, there were 994 Friend and Virtual Walks requested. In 2021, prior to the App, UPD only had 75 in-person safety walk requests for the entire year.

If you are new to campus or haven't downloaded the Lions Safe App, you can do so for free via the Apple or Google stores. Many tutorials about the App's features can be found on the UPD TikTok page (@southeasternUPD).

Remember, UPD is here for you. If you have a question or a need, please call or come by the office and speak with us. We can connect you with the resources you need.

If you witness a crime or something you feel is out of place or suspicious, report it.

Upcoming UPD Events:

Throughout the month of January, University Police will be participating in the Click-it or Ticket Seatbelt Campaign. Remember to buckle up every ride, every time.

January 24, 2023 from 7:00-9:00 AM, UPD will be hosting Coffee with a Cop in the Teacher Education Center (TEC). Stop by for a free coffee and speak with an officer.

February 1, 2023 at 5:30 PM, UPD will be presenting on Active Assailant Awareness in the Student Union Theater.

UPD is actively planning class dates for our next Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training. Keep an eye on our social media accounts for upcoming announcements (@southeasternupd).

If you or your organization would like UPD to present on a topic, please reach out to us and we will make it happen.

Safety Tips:

As the semester begins and you return to campus, secure your belongings, lock your vehicles, and make a list of important and valuable items, including serial numbers. This will help in the event your items are stolen with being able to recover and return your property to you.

If you see something, say something! If you see suspicious persons or activity, call your University Police Department immediately at 985-549-2222. We are available 24-7/365. We are physically located on the 1st floor of Pride Hall.

Send any questions or comments to police@southeastern.edu.

We will see you around campus! LION UP!

Chief Beckner

Southeastern Louisiana University Police Department