

Safety-Related Communications: Clery and Beyond

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Agenda

- Clery Act overview
- Implementation at UNC Charlotte
- Expectation management
- Scenarios



The Clery Act

The Clery Act is a federal law that requires colleges and universities to collect and disclose information about criminal activity and other incidents that occur on or near campus in an Annual Security Report.

Basic requirements:

- Annual disclosure (policies and statistics)
- ★ Ongoing disclosures (timely warnings, emergency notifications, daily crime logs)
- Education programs (for students and employees)
- Grievance procedures (for four offenses)

Clery Act – Timely Warnings

- Required when a Clery crime occurs on Clery geography that represents an ongoing threat
 - Clery crime = a specific list of serious crimes included in the law (e.g. homicide, aggravated assault, arson, rape, etc.)
 - Clery geography = main campus, Dubois Center, public property that runs through main campus, and a handful of pieces of property in other locations
 - Ongoing threat = serious or continuing threat to the safety of students or employees

Clery Act – Emergency Notifications

- Added after Virginia Tech shooting (2007)
- Required when any significant emergency or dangerous situation is confirmed
 - Examples: disease outbreak, approaching tornado or hurricane, gas leak, armed intruder, etc.
- Disseminated to portion of campus community at risk

Clery Act

	Emergency Notifications	Timely Warnings
Scope	Significant emergency or dangerous situation	Clery crimes, reported to CSAs
Triggered by?	Event that is currently occurring on or imminently threatening campus	Crimes that occurred and represent an ongoing threat
Where event occurs?	Only on campus	Anywhere on Clery Geography
How soon to issue?	Immediately upon confirmation of situation	As soon as information is available

- From 2020 federal guidance, “too much information could be detrimental because information overload may prevent a student or parent from identifying the most significant or serious threats.”

Timely Warnings

Timely warnings are sent when there exists an imminent or continuous threat to the campus community

Timely warnings are sent in regard to the University Clery geography

Timely warnings ***are not sent*** based upon an arrest by police when there was not a known threat to the University community prior to or post arrest

Arrests are listed on the Police & Public Safety Crime Log

Adhering to the Clery Act at UNC Charlotte...

- Think of it as a 3-pronged approach:
 - NinerAlerts
 - NinerNotice
 - Daily Police Log

NinerAlerts:

- Messages sent to the campus community when there is a **threat** to campus safety or campus operations.
- Messages can be sent through a variety of methods dependent on severity:
 - Email
 - Text message
 - Digital screen take-over
 - LiveSafe App
 - Social Media
 - Alert Sirens
- All NinerAlerts include an Action Directive (seek shelter, evacuate, lockdown/run, hide, fight).

A graphic logo for NinerAlerts. The word "NINERALERTS" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a dark green rectangular background that has a slight 3D effect, appearing to be a raised block.

NinerNotice

- A NinerNotice provides information about incidents that do not pose a threat to the University community or its operations, but may be helpful for interested campus members to know about.
- A NinerNotice is for information purposes only; no action is required from the University Community.
- Students and employees are automatically enrolled to receive NinerNotices.
 - Others (family, visitors, etc.) can sign up online.

What's the difference?

NINERNOTICE VS. NINERALERT



NINERNOTICE

- For information only. No action needed.**
- No threat to campus.**
- No change in operating condition.**
- Sent via email to those who are signed up and posted online.**
- Faculty, staff and students may unsubscribe.**
- Families and campus visitors can sign up to receive these messages.**



NINERALERT

- Take action. Message will notify you how to act.**
- Imminent or current threat to campus.**
- Possible change in operating condition.**
- May be sent via email, text or other alert channels.**
- Faculty, staff and students are automatically enrolled.**
- Families and campus visitors can sign up to receive the most urgent messages via text.**

Managing Expectations

- It's an art, not a science
 - Each circumstance is evaluated independently
- Everything is available for those who want it
- Media acts independently
 - Risk to community is not factored into their decisions
- We are judicious in communication
 - White noise is our worst fear

Scenario 1

A car speeds through a red light on campus and is stopped by Police and Public Safety (PPS). The driver of the vehicle is not affiliated with UNC Charlotte and says he was just cutting through campus. The police officer notices a handgun sitting on the passenger seat, partially covered by a jacket. The police officer arrests the driver for possession of a weapon on educational property.

- Clery crime?
- Clery geography?
- Ongoing threat?

Scenario 2

On a Saturday during winter break, a tornado warning is issued by the National Weather Service for all of Mecklenburg County. The majority of UNC Charlotte students and employees are not present on campus.

- Significant emergency or dangerous situation?
- Currently occurring or imminently threatening campus?

Scenario 3

One evening the entrances to two academic buildings are spraypainted, a couple of windows are cracked, and one door handle is detached from the door. Police and Public Safety are investigating to determine whether a group of students or unaffiliated individuals are responsible for the vandalism.

- Clery crime?
- Clery geography?
- Ongoing threat?

Scenario 4

A gas station near campus is robbed by two unknown individuals. The two suspects are seen fleeing the scene in a gray SUV headed toward the I-85 entrance ramp.

- Clery crime?
- Clery geography?
- Ongoing threat?

Questions?



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