



CALIFORNIA CAMPUS SAFETY PLAN

2026

Message From Chief Laretta Hill



On behalf of the USC Department of Public Safety (DPS), I am pleased to present USC's 2026 California Campus Safety Plan.

This report is prepared in compliance with California Education Code § 67380(a)(4) and provides essential information regarding safety and numerous resources available within USC on both the University Park and the Health Sciences Campuses.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Hill".

1. Availability, location and methods for summoning assistance of security personnel.

Availability and location:

DPS protects and serves the USC campus community and is one of the largest university law enforcement agencies in the nation. DPS maintains a headquarters and two substations. All three locations operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. The headquarters of DPS is located on the University Park Campus (UPC) at 3667 McClintock Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90089. In the event of an emergency call DPS at (213) 740-4321 or in a non-emergency situation call (213) 740-6000.

A DPS substation is maintained at the University Village located at 3131 S. Hoover Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles, CA 90089. In the event of an emergency call (213) 740-4321. The front desk at the USC Village sub-station can be reached at (213) 821-6677.

The Health Sciences Campus (HSC) also maintains a DPS substation which is located at 2001 Soto Street, Los Angeles, CA 90032. In the event of an emergency call (323) 442-1000 or in a non-emergency situation call (323) 442- 1200.

DPS is staffed by armed Public Safety Officers (PSOs) who are police academy graduates that must pass an extensive screening process and background check before they are hired. They must then successfully complete the DPS's field training program before they are allowed to work alone. The DPS Community Service Officers (CSOs) compliment the services provided by PSOs. Most CSOs are assigned to the Operations Division and provide security services to the University Bookstore, USC's libraries, university-owned residential complexes, and other facilities on the University Park and Health Sciences campuses. Surveillance Operations Monitors also monitor card-key-access, closed circuit camera systems, and a variety of intrusion and fire/life safety alarm systems.

The Department's 24-hour communications center coordinates and supports the activities of field personnel, and facilitates communication regarding department activities with the community. The DPS communications center also provides dispatch services for USC Transportation and monitors several other radio frequencies, including those of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officers assigned to the USC area.

Methods for Summoning Assistance

I. Call or visit the locations at:

University Park Campus
Department of Public Safety
3667 McClintock Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90089
In an emergency call (213) 740-4321
Non-emergency situation call (213) 740-6000

USC Village
Department of Public Safety
3131 S. Hoover Street
Suite 1300
Los Angeles, CA 90089
In an emergency call (213) 740-4321
USC Village front desk: (213) 821-6677

Health Sciences Campus
Department of Public Safety
2001 Soto Street
Los Angeles, CA 90032
In an emergency call (323) 442-1000
Non-emergency situation call (323) 442-1200

II. Download the LiveSafe Mobile App

The DPS recommends all members of the campus community, and their family and friends, download the free LiveSafe mobile app because it allows users to initiate contact with DPS for emergencies and/or to report suspicious behaviors or activity. With the push of a button, you can instantly contact DPS or 911 in an emergency and you will receive an immediate text response within the application. When you send an emergency message or call the emergency number, your location will automatically pop up on a map in the DPS Communications Center. Your message will be location-tagged, and you can attach pictures, audio or video. The “Safewalk” function of the app allows you to alert your friends that you are on the way to a destination, so they can monitor your progress and help keep you safe.

Instructions and a video on how to download the Trojan Mobile Safety App powered by LiveSafe in three easy steps are available at <https://dps.usc.edu/services/safety-app/>.

III. Blue Light Emergency Phones

Blue light emergency phones are located throughout the University Park and Health Sciences campuses. The phones are connected to DPS's 24-hour communications center and identify the location of a phone used to place a call should the caller be unable to talk. The phones can be used to request an escort and to report suspicious activity and or crimes. For more information and to download a map of Blue Light Emergency phones, visit <https://dps.usc.edu/services/blue-light-phones/>.

IV. Call the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)

You can contact the LAPD by calling 911 in an emergency, or 877-ASK-LAPD for non-emergencies.

V. Find a Security Ambassador

On average, there are approximately 70 Security Ambassadors at USC each day. Security Ambassadors are primarily at off-campus locations, such as sidewalks and intersections traveled by a majority of students, faculty, and staff. Security Ambassadors wear bright yellow and cardinal colored jackets or bright yellow polo shirts. Security Ambassadors carry radios and are instructed to contact their direct supervisor and DPS in the event they observe a crime, a crime is reported to them, or they observe suspicious or unusual behavior

VI. Contact UPC Perimeter Security

USC is an open and publicly accessible campus. The university and DPS, in coordination with contract security personnel, work to maintain UPC perimeter security by positioning unarmed security personnel at the entry points to campus. As has been the practice for many years, security staff checks IDs of those who wish to enter campus weeknights between 9 p.m.-6 a.m. and on weekends, and visitors are required to register through <https://visitor.usc.edu>.

In the events that the university temporarily needs to close campus entrances or require ID checks for any reason, the university will make every effort to notify the community in advance.

VII. For Security Considerations in Facilities Maintenance

Facilities Management Services (FMS) regularly monitors all campus facilities for necessary safety and security-related repairs, and partners closely with DPS to assist in creating a safer campus community. To request service for an electrical, plumbing, or other maintenance-related problem, call the FMS Customer Resource Center line at (213) 740-6833.

VIII. Surveillance Cameras

As part of DPS's efforts to leverage technology and suppress criminal activity, multiple surveillance cameras have been installed in and around UPC, the USC Village, and HSC.

Established Safeguards

Each of the eight above mentioned Methods for Summoning Assistance have been established by DPS to protect and inform the campus community. In addition to the eight outlined above, USC provides the following safeguards and information:

IX. Informing the Campus Community of Crimes and Threats

TrojansAlert:

If you are a student or employee of USC, it is essential to familiarize yourself with USC's emergency notification system called TrojansAlert. DPS will communicate with you through TrojansAlert in the event of an emergency or a dangerous situation and will provide updates and other information allowing you to make informed decisions about your personal safety. If you are a USC parent or guest on campus it is also important for you to download TrojansAlert so you will have real time information when you need it. For information on how to sign up for TrojansAlert you can visit <https://dps.usc.edu/services/trojans-alerts/>.

Timely Warnings:

DPS will issue Crime Alert/Timely Warnings in accordance with the Clery Act for Clery Act crimes that pose a significant and ongoing threat to members of the campus community and that occur in a Clery reportable location. DPS also may issue Crime Alerts that are not required by the Clery Act, for crimes and incidents that occur in USC's greater patrol and response area, if the crime or incident is determined to represent a serious or ongoing threat to the campus community. The decision whether to issue a Crime Alert/Timely Warning or Crime Alert is made on a case-by-case basis in light of all known circumstances surrounding a crime. The process the university will follow when issuing or determining whether to issue an alert is simple and designed to expedite decision making and notification to the community.

USC Web:

In the event of a major emergency, updates and information about the status of the university will be posted online at <http://emergency.usc.edu> in addition to updates via TrojansAlert. Backup web servers are available out of state if USC servers are incapacitated.

Emergency Information Line:

USC community members may call the university's emergency information telephone line, (213) 740-9233, which provides information in the event of an emergency. The line can handle 1,400 simultaneous calls and has a backup system out of state.

The USC Office of Fire Safety & Emergency Planning coordinates the development, revision, review, and testing of the university "All-Hazards Emergency Response Operations Plan" plus numerous specialized plans including venue specific plans, Business Continuity Plans, Disaster Recovery Plans, Mass Casualty Plans, and other specialized areas. The office works year-round to support the university's ability to mitigate, prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies and disasters. For additional information, visit, <https://fsep.usc.edu/>.

Daily Crime and Fire Log:

DPS publishes its Daily Crime and Fire Log online. The log contains the information collected by DPS dispatchers following the receipt of a report and includes the date and time the report was made, the date and time of the reported incident, the location of the reported incident, and incident classification.

X. Safety Programs and Efforts

USC Lyft Rides Program:

Current USC students, faculty and staff have access to free rides provided by Lyft. The rides must be within either the UPC or HSC geofence and be requested within a qualifying time frame. Rides that begin or end outside of the geofence at any time are not covered, regardless of the address you entered when you requested the ride. Rides with added stops are also not covered. For more information on using Lyft visit: <https://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/how-to-use-lyft/>.

Safety tips when using Lyft:

1) TRAVEL IN PAIRS:

Travel with a friend – the “safety in numbers” concept really works, especially if your judgment is impaired.

2) VERIFY YOUR DRIVER AND CAR:

Once you have requested a Lyft ride, you can view the driver’s rating. When your ride arrives, make sure the driver’s photo, license plate number, and vehicle description match. Never take a ride you did not request or get into a car that doesn’t match the details provided by the Lyft app.

3) GO THE EXTRA MILE:

The Lyft app’s “share your ETA” function allows you to invite friends to see your trip in real-time. The app will draft a text message you can share with friends that includes your ETA and a link to a live map that allows them to track your trip. Too much effort? Call a friend and stay on the line while you’re in the car instead.

Rape Aggression Defense Classes (RAD):

RAD is a unique crime prevention program available for women and men which focuses on safety and self-defense techniques. For more information visit:

<https://dps.usc.edu/services/self-defense/>.

Residential Access:

University-owned residence halls and apartment complexes use an electronic card key-access system that limits entry to residents and other users permitted by the university. On-campus residence halls have staffed secondary security checkpoints for secured entry only by authorized residents. Department of Public Safety personnel have access to all university owned residential facilities. Entrances to residential housing and fire exit doors are equipped with alarms that sound if a door is propped open for more than one minute. Department of Public Safety personnel respond to such alarms to determine the cause of activation and to take action, where appropriate, to protect the well-being and safety of USC’s campus community.

What to Do in the Event of an Active Shooter?:

Tailored for students, faculty and staff, this one-hour active shooter training addresses what to do in the event of an active shooter on campus and discusses the options of “Run, Hide or Fight.” For more information, contact DPS Community Relations Supervisor, Adrian Pena, at (213) 764-7945 or by email at apena@dps.usc.edu

XI. Safety implementations made in last 18 months

- Increased use of social media for crime prevention & safety messaging. DPS gained 498 followers on social media over the 12 months;
- All safety brochures have been digitized and are available for viewing and download on the DPS website;
- Implemented real time crime analysis for where crimes happen within patrol areas;
- Deployed foot beat Officers to provide enhanced patrol coverage in the neighborhoods where students live;
- Hired and trained additional Public Safety Officers and Community Services Officers for UPC and HSC;
- Taught numerous active shooter preparation and Rape Aggression Defense courses;
- Updated USC’s Emergency Operations Plan; and
- Stop Campus Hazing Act: Started tracking hazing incidents for inclusion of hazing statistics in Annual Security and Fire Safety Report as well as Campus Hazing Transparency Report.

XII. Safety implementations expected to be made in next 24 months

- Aiming to patrol areas where crimes happen based on real time crime analysis.
- All safety brochures will be translated to Spanish and made available on the DPS website;
- Enhance our current capabilities to consistently collect input from students regarding crime/quality of life issues impacting their safety;
- Enhance our social media mining capabilities to identify potential threats to the university and students, faculty & staff;
- Improve our CCTV & vehicle license plate recognition technology; and,
- Fully implement the department’s strategic plan.

For further information regarding USC’s compliance with the Clery Act please visit the DPS website at <https://dps.usc.edu/>.

For additional information regarding programming on campus, see the Annual Security & Fire Safety Report at <https://dps.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/USC-ASR-2025.pdf>.