

Safety and Security

Your personal safety and the security of your belongings are of the utmost importance to us. Residential Life facilities, staff, and policies are all designed to protect and promote your well-being. As a resident, you are also responsible for your security and that of your fellow residents in the on-campus living community. Please practice safety procedures in your daily habits, including locking your room door, not propping security doors open and reporting suspicious behavior. Your positive actions can make a difference in the safety of your living environment.

Department of Residential Life Night Watch (NW)

Student staffs serve on two-person teams performing safety and security rounds in the residence halls and the area immediately outside the buildings during the late night and early morning hours. Each NW crew member is easily identified by their clothing and has radio contact with the SDSU police dispatcher and other NW personnel. For more information on NW, please inquire at the hall desk.

Security Doors

Doors are locked for your personal safety and the security of your property. Please carry your keys/ID with you every time you are leaving your room. Tampering with and/or propping doors endangers residents and property of the entire residence hall community.

Doors are locked as listed below:

External Doors:

- A. Lobby doors will be locked at 11:00 p.m. each night and will be unlocked by 9:00 a.m.
- B. End stair tower entry doors (Binnewies, Caldwell, Hansen, Pierson and Young) remain locked 24 hours a day.
- C. Fire escape doors (Brown, Mathews and Waneta) remain locked and alarmed at all times.

Internal Doors:

- A. House doors will be locked at midnight daily and will be opened at 9:00 a.m. each morning.
- B. End stair tower house doors (Binnewies, Hansen, Pierson and Young) remain locked 24 hours a day.
- C. Caldwell Hall is a 24-hour visitation facility. House doors remain unlocked 24 hours daily.

SDSU Police Department (SDSU PD)

The SDSU Police Department is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the safety and security of our campus. Officers are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Please contact SDSU PD at (605) 688-5117 (5117 on campus) for assistance. SDSU police officers are trained

and licensed individuals who work closely with on-campus residents, offering services such as self-defense programs, escorts after dark, and the support one would expect from any law enforcement department.

On-campus Emergency Number is: 111 (This is similar to 911 in most communities.)

Blue Light Emergency Phones

Blue Light emergency telephones are located in a number of places throughout the campus. Residents are encouraged to note where they are and use them if they feel threatened or see suspicious activity. These phones will connect you to the SDSU Police Department and let the dispatcher know the location from which you are calling.

Personal Property Loss or Damage

The University is not liable for property belonging to residents. Residents should check with their parents and insurance agent regarding insurance coverage while living in a residence hall.

Residents are encouraged to record serial numbers and other pertinent information about their property. Have a copy on campus and at your permanent address. If personal property is missing or suspected as being stolen, immediately report to SDSU PD and hall staff.

Items found should be taken to the nearest hall office. If you have lost an item, please check at front desks at all of the halls in the area. In some cases, a resident may take it to their hall desk instead of the owner's hall desk.

Room Entry

The right to privacy is of paramount importance and should not be violated. However, the entry into, and/or search of resident's rooms may be conducted by the following people for the purposes and under the procedures detailed below:

1. By civil law enforcement officers in the performance of statutory duties and in accordance with legally defined procedures governing search and seizure.
2. By authorized University officials:
 - In the performance of judicial duties and in accordance with SDSU Student Code.
 - During breaks to ensure that health, fire and safety regulations are maintained.
 - When work orders request improvements, repairs and/or to provide routine maintenance services. The University will attempt to give at least 24 hours notice of such entry. When a student completes a work order, no notice is necessary.

- In emergency situations to protect the health and welfare of residents and to make repairs to prevent damages to property of residents or the University.
- When an unattended alarm clock or TV/stereo is loud enough to be heard in the hall or other rooms.
- When a staff member knocks, identifies themselves as staff and is invited in.
- When the door is open and a violation of University policy is in plain view.

In all instances, such entry shall be made only for the purposes set forth above. Observed alleged contraband will be confiscated and/or alleged violations of University policies, rules, or regulations will be referred to the RHD for follow-up.

Fire/Health/Safety Inspection

An inspection of rooms is intended to ensure the health and safety of not only the room's residents but other individuals who live in the community as well. Authorized Department of Residential Life Staff may inspect a residents' room to ensure the room is free of fire, health, and safety threats. The Department of Residential Life will give at least 48 hours notice to residents except in cases authorized by the Director of Residential Life to check on an eminent danger or need.

Fire Detection Equipment

Fire alarms, fire fighting, and detection equipment installed in the halls are for your safety. Every residence hall room contains a smoke alarm and heat sensor. You are expected to become familiar with their location and operation. In case of a fire you should activate the nearest alarm station.

Tampering with fire fighting or detection equipment endangers your life and the lives of fellow residents. Cases of tampering are investigated and responsible individuals face serious campus and legal action.

Fire Alarm Evacuation

Everyone is required to leave the building immediately when the fire alarm is sounded and to remain outside until authorized to re-enter by the Residence Hall Director or their designee. The primary intention of an alarm is to clear the building and save lives.

Your hall staff will conduct general safety meetings early in each semester on all emergencies, but as a general rule, in the event of a real fire:

1. Move as close to the floor as possible when there is smoke.
2. Check doors to see if they are hot before proceeding.
3. If you are unable to evacuate your room:
 - a. Stuff towels under the door.
 - b. Hang a sheet from your window as this indicates to fire fighters you are trapped in your room.
 - c. DO NOT JUMP.

False Alarms

False fire alarms are not only illegal, but they are also dangerous. Every time a building is evacuated there is the possibility of injury. Frequent false alarms tend to create a feeling of false security and it becomes more difficult to evacuate the building. In the event of a real fire, this could lead to serious consequences. For these reasons, everyone must evacuate immediately every time the alarm rings. Students who do not evacuate the hall during a fire alarm may face judicial action. Any student found guilty of causing a false fire alarm or fire will be subject to suspension and arrest.

Tornado Warning

When a tornado is sighted or indicated by weather radar, local sirens will sound a continuous blast lasting about three minutes. Residents should immediately vacate their rooms and open areas and move to central corridors, bathrooms, or the basement of the building.

Winter Storm Information

When winter storms occur, it is the normal practice of the University to remain open and to offer classes as scheduled. However, if SDSU's President (or designee) makes any storm related decisions, these decisions can be accessed by calling 688-INFO (688-6669).

Finally, regardless of what decisions are made concerning class schedules during or prior to winter storms, there needs to be a very clear understanding that each individual is best able to judge her or his circumstances and make appropriate decisions.

Storm related decisions will be immediately transmitted to the following news outlets:

Television:

- KDLT, Channel 5
- KELO, Channel 11
- KSFY, Channel 13

Radio:

- KBRK, 1430 AM/93.7 FM
- KJJQ, 910 AM/102 FM

