

2021 ASSESSMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANT SAFETY

Florida Southern College regularly evaluates its Safety and Security Manual. Our College Safety Committee meets at least quarterly during the year to review both workers comp. related injuries and overall physical safety issues. The internal committee is joined by several outside insurance professionals who assist in both identifying potential problem areas and provide suggestions of how to best resolve the issues. In addition, the campus emergency committee meets as needed to prepare for any hazardous situations that appear, such as tropical weather or other local concerns.

The Safety Director annually conducts a nighttime tour of the campus. Members of the student body, staff from the Facilities and Student Life Offices, and members of the Lakeland Police Department meet for the tour in order to ensure that adequate lighting is available, that areas of student concern are noted and that any recommendations made by the local authorities are brought to administration. Adjustments in lighting and landscaping are then appropriately made in areas where there was a safety concern.

In addition, the college made available to the campus community a cell phone app (free of charge to the participants), which enable the Safety office to locate individuals by GPS whenever the panic button on the device is utilized. During 2021, we worked towards an increased participation among faculty and staff with this protection device. Our faculty are requested to have a cell phone available when in a classroom to expedite 911 emergency calls.

Florida Southern continued to employ various means of campus emergency notification this year. A siren system with verbal capability is present and can be used to alert for campus wide issues, such as the approach of a tornado. Members of the campus are able to sign up for emergency text messages transmitted to their cell phones. Several members of administration are also able to send emergency emails to all members of campus as needed. Regular fire and tornado drills were conducted in the student residence halls. A campus wide tornado drill was conducted in the fall. In addition, during the fall a text message trial alert was sent out so that members of campus could ensure they were properly signed up to receive the messages.

The College works closely with the City of Lakeland's Fire Department during its annual inspection of the campus. The College continues to initiate changes in response to suggestions gathered from these inspections and make repairs as needed.

The College security department has increased its number of positions and is fully staffed 24/7 during the entire year. We maintain a strong relationship with the local police department. The college now fully funds four positions with the Lakeland Police Department. These positions are stationed fulltime at the college from 8a.m. to 2a.m. Monday through Friday. In addition to the permanent positions, deputies are brought in on a contractual basis to provide coverage at all on-site athletic events and other major campus events such as graduation. An active shooter informational update led by a Lakeland Police representative was provided to faculty and staff.

Florida Southern College also has an arrangement at four of our off-campus apartment complexes where a Lakeland Police Officer is provided housing, giving a police presence to those locations. Currently, this involves six officers.

Finally, the Annual Crime Report filed by the institution continues to reflect low instances of criminal activity, so the Director of Safety is satisfied with the current safety conditions of the physical plant.

Additional enhancements needed for the campus mainly involve continuing to increase the number of cameras covering the campus, expanding the number of doors with restricted open access by utilizing card access capability, and working to maintain pedestrian and bicycle safety across campus. During 2022, we plan to increase our Lakeland Police Department staffing to five positions, which will provide 24/7 coverage to the campus.