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STAYING SAFE DURING SNOW DAYS
HPU monitors weather conditions and boosts preparedness efforts when a winter storm is expected. As city crews salt the surrounding roads, Campus Enhancement and Security teams treat HPU streets and walkways. Be cautious when traveling by car or foot because of the increased potential for injury. If possible, choose to take the campus shuttle instead of walking or driving yourself. If you notice areas needing attention contact Security at 336-841-9112. Campus closures will be communicated via the Campus Concierge as opposed to Panther ALERT.

Snow Day Terminology—Warnings and Watches

- **Freezing Rain**—Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.
- **Sleet**—Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads which can freeze and become slick.
- **Frost/Freeze Warning**—Below freezing temperatures are expected.
- **Winter Weather Advisory**—Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazards.
- **Winter Storm Watch**—A winter storm is possible in your area.
- **Winter Storm Warning**—A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.
- **Blizzard Warning**—Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

President Lincoln sits in front of Hayworth Fine Arts Center wishing he had prepared for the winter weather. Planning ahead saves valuable time and allows for a smoother response.

Winter Weather Safety Kit:
At home and at work, primary concerns are the potential loss of heat, power, telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions persist. What items would you need if you had to manage for 1-3 days on your own?

You should have available in your kit:
- A flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-powered weather radio
- Extra food and water
- Extra medicines
- First aid supplies

For a vehicle emergency kit, consider the following:
- Ice scraper
- Jumper cables
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Shovel

WHAT'S GOING ON:

**AED-READY CAMPUS:**
In the last newsletter’s “Teaching Corner” we published a list of the AED locations on campus. HPU Security and Emergency Preparedness & Safety departments are pleased to announce that we now have even greater AED coverage on campus. Each Security vehicle is equipped, and an AED is also installed in the new Employee Wellness Center. Click here for a complete list of AED locations.

**UPDATED FIRE RALLY POINTS:**
Following the fire drills conducted over the past several weeks, the rally point locations have been updated to reflect lessons learned, and to improve the system. Please take a moment to review the locations here for all campus buildings and University-owned housing.

**SECURITY STUDENT WORKING GROUP:**
On December 2, the inaugural meeting of the Security & Transportation Advisory Representative (STAR) Alliance convened. Students were able to bring their concerns, suggestions and grievances to the Security & Transportation department. Those interested in participating in future STAR meetings can send an email to Jeff Karpovich, Chief of Security and Transportation (jkarpovi@highpoint.edu).

If you have questions, concerns or recommendations regarding any security, transportation, parking, emergency preparedness or safety matters, consider becoming a Security & Transportation Advisory Representative.

The next meeting is February 18th. Food will be served.
Winter Weather Fire Safety—

Each winter, an estimated 108,400 home fires occur in the US, resulting in 945 deaths and $1.7 billion in property loss. The following tips can help you stay safe during the winter:

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking something on top of the stove or when broiling food.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from space-heaters.
- Replace damaged electrical or extension cords.
- Don’t use candles; they are not dorm-safe.

The majority of winter fires occur between 5 PM and 8 PM. Minimize your fire risk and help you stay safe during the winter.

GET NOTIFIED OF LOCAL EMERGENCIES:

In addition to subscribing to the PantherAlert program which provides campus-specific emergency alerts and notifications, consider enabling Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) from Ready.gov on your cell phone. Wireless Emergency Alerts send free informational text messages to WEA-enabled cell phones within range of an imminent and dangerous local situation, severe weather event, or Amber Alert.

You do not need to register to receive WEA notifications; you will automatically receive alerts if you have a WEA-capable phone and your wireless carrier participates in the program. To found out if your mobile device is capable of receiving WEA notifications, visit CTIA The Wireless Association.

CAMPUS FIRE ALARM BREAKDOWN:

Chances are you have been in a building when the fire alarm has gone off and you may wonder what caused the alarm. Was it someone microwaving Mac&Cheese for 30 minutes, or was a pull-station activated? There were 83 fire alarms during the fall semester across campus. Here is a breakdown of all activations:

- 37 were cooking related. The three main culprits for setting off the alarm are bacon, popcorn, and Easy Mac.
- 11 were “fire equipment failures” - these range from faulty smoke detectors to wires shorting out. HPU Security technicians are called in to address these issues ASAP in order to maintain the greatest protection for the campus.
- 7 alarms were due to intentional mischief: either activating a pull station or spraying a fire extinguisher. FYI, this can carry a $500 fine in NC in addition to University disciplinary action.
- 7 alarms occurred due to Campus Enhancement and contractors working on campus, and accidentally activating the alarm due to the dust and/or steam generated.
- 6 alarms were due to aerosols and small appliances. Too much hair spray will trigger an alarm, as will hair straighteners/curlers if left on too long.
- 5 fire alarms were due to steam from the shower. After a long shower, too much steam may set off the smoke detector when you open the bathroom door.
- 4 alarms were directly due to smoke: even the smoke from extinguishing candles can set-off some of the more sensitive smoke detectors.
- 6 alarms were unknown activations. The fire department investigated and found no apparent cause of the alarm, and the fire system was inspected to ensure functionality.

Winter can be a dangerous time for driving; take some precautionary steps to improve your safety while on the road. It’s a good idea to always check the weather forecast before starting any road journey.

Winter Safety Tips: Staying Safe on the Roads

Before Driving Your Vehicle:

- Remove snow and ice from your vehicle.
- Ensure your headlights and taillights are visible.
- Check your windshield wiper blades.
- Use non-freezing windshield washer fluid.
- Ensure the tires are in good condition and inflated to recommended pressures.
- Make sure you have enough fuel to get to your location.
- Check your vehicle’s battery.
- Build and maintain an emergency kit for your vehicle.

When Driving Your Vehicle:

- Stay alert.
- Try to avoid sudden actions.
- When braking, brake gently to reduce skidding.
- Increase your following distance to allow more space when braking.
- Avoid taking chances when pulling out in front of approaching vehicles.
- Do not use cruise control while driving in snow, ice, fog, or heavy rain.
- Allow more time to get to your destination.

Stuck or Stranded on the Side of the Road:

- Turn on the vehicle’s emergency flashers.
- If safe, stay in your vehicle for warmth.
- Keep your seat belt on just in case you’re hit from behind.
- Ensure the tailpipe isn’t blocked by snow, ice, mud or dirt.
- Check to make sure no fluids are leaking from your vehicle.
- Wait for help to arrive.

STAY INFORMED WITH PANTHER ALERT AND ADVISORY:

In an effort to provide critical need-to-know information to the campus while delineating between the severity of the emergency, HPU will begin using both Panther ALERTS and Panther ADVISORIES.

A Panther ALERT will be sent for any situation that poses an immediate threat to life safety and/or property requiring immediate action. Examples include an active shooter and tornado warning. For a Panther ALERT, we will send a message to every notification method including the sirens/PA system.

A Panther ADVISORY will be sent for a situation that does not pose an immediate threat to life safety and/or property but that may disrupt normal campus operations. This would include a power outage or building closure. For an ADVISORY, a voice, text and email message will be sent to inform the campus of the situation.

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