

## FAQ for TUPD

**What is the role of the University Police department?** Our responsibilities are similar to that of a municipal police department. In addition to enforcing the applicable state laws, the TUPD Officer must also serve as counselor, guardian, disciplinarian and advisor. Considering the high level of qualifications needed for a TUPD Officer, special attention is given to the application and selection process. The goal is to select the best qualified.

**Are the Tuskegee University campuses reasonably safe?** The Tuskegee University Police Department (TUPD) has jurisdiction over all campus grounds; remote research facilities; University owned housing units for off-campus students, staff and faculty. In order to provide safety and security of the public, TUPD Officers patrol these areas daily and respond to requests for service 24 hours a day.

**Where does University Police derive its authority and do they have police powers?** Our law enforcement authority is cited from the Code of Alabama statutes (section 16-47-10). University Police Officers have the same full law enforcement powers and responsibilities under state law as municipal police officers and county sheriffs. They must complete a state approved police academy and firearms training.

**How do I report a crime or emergency?** There are several ways in which victims or witnesses can report crimes. For crimes in progress or crimes that just occurred, or in an emergency, it is best to dial 4-911. When calling 4-911, stay on the line and try to remain calm with your information ready. If fire and/or ambulance response is necessary on campus, those services are dispatched from the Tuskegee University Police Department.

You may also use the "Blue Light" Police Emergency Phones to report a crime, emergency or safety concern. People may also report a crime in person at the University Police department located at 516 University Avenue (Tuskegee campus). University Police encourages accurate and prompt reporting of all crimes and emergencies. Please note, email should not be used to report crimes and emergencies, but anonymous tips, officer's commendation, and or complaint.

**What is a "Blue Light" Police Emergency Phone?** Community members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Blue Light Police Emergency Phones located on the Tuskegee campus. They are housed in burgundy towers with a blue light overhead. Pushing the emergency phone button will connect you directly to a University Police Communication Center. Once the emergency phone button is pushed, the location of the activation is automatically transmitted to the University Police Communication Center. If a caller doesn't speak or can't, an officer is immediately dispatched to the phone site.

**How do I report a non-emergency?** In non-emergency situations, where there is no immediate threat to personal safety or property, contact University Police on either campus by dialing 8757 from any campus telephone. Non-emergencies may also be reported by calling [334-727-8757](tel:334-727-8757) (TUPD).

**What is the Annual Security and Fire Safety Reports?** The Annual Security and Fire Safety Reports are updated and distributed annually for the Tuskegee University campus in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act). The Clery Act is the landmark federal law that requires colleges and universities to disclose information on security and safety policies and certain timely and annual information about crime on and around campus.

**When I call the Police, what information should I have ready?** Make sure you are safe before calling. The information needed will vary based on what is being reported. The following is a list of questions that could be asked when you call for police service. Not all questions would be applicable to every call. The University Police Communication Center call taker may want to know:

**Does University Police offer safety escorts?** University community members may contact University Police at [334-727-8757](tel:334-727-8757) to request safety escorts to on-campus. Please note, there may be a waiting period for escorts as the result of concurrent Police related activities.

**How do I request a presentation by a Police Officer?** You can request a crime prevention presentation tailored to meet your needs by calling or emailing Chief Patrick Mardis at [334-724-4454](tel:334-724-4454)/ [mardisp@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:mardisp@mytu.tuskegee.edu).

**Are there any rules or regulations about weapons on University grounds?** Possession or use of firearms, weapons, explosives, or dangerous substances and devices are prohibited on campus (except for weapons carried by sworn Police personnel. This includes: ammunition, BB

**I don't need to park on campus anymore. Can I get a refund for my parking permit? No.**

**My car was booted. What should I do? Do not move the vehicle. Contact the Tuskegee**