

Campus Safety Tips:

I have been asked many questions about the safety warning we put out earlier this week. Of course people are concerned. Of course the person in the warning needed help with his life. But please keep it in perspective. We are still safer at Barton than out in the public areas and the towns and cities we often visit. And we are lucky to have employees and Campus Safety that work hard to keep us safe. But the most critical element to your safety isn't Campus Safety. It isn't Barton employees. It isn't police officers. **It is YOU!** I want to remind you of a few tips you should use here on campus, or anywhere off campus that you go to keep you safe.

“Battle Buddies”: In the army, we used this term. We made a lot of fun of the name, but it served its purpose well. A Battle Buddy is just a partner that accompanies you when you go out and knows where you are at all times. From experience, it works. Find yourself a Battle Buddy. A roommate, a friend or a fellow employee. When you go somewhere, especially after dark, have your Battle Buddy go with you. Familiarize your Battle Buddy with your normal schedule. If you go somewhere without them, text them and let them know!

Campus Safety: We're here to help. It's what we do. Battle Buddy won't walk you to a night class? Give us a call, we'll walk with you. We don't mind, honest!

The Rave Guardian: You've heard me preach it. I do it for a reason – I believe it will keep you safer. It won't if you don't download and use it! *Download from App Store or Google play.*

Send tips: Do you see something going on that shouldn't be? Do you see someone you think shouldn't be here? Take a pic and send a tip. You don't even have to tell us who you are, we'll check it out. At the very least, tell someone!

Flashlights: We have some Campus Safety Officers that really love flashlights! Find yourself a bright one and take it with you to night class or out to your car when you leave. With LED's becoming better and better, strong flashlights are getting cheaper and cheaper. I recently saw a 620 lumen flashlight for \$34. That'll light up the night. And most people who are doing devious things at night tend to be discouraged once a flashlight is shining on them.

Doors: Don't prop open your doors (my personal pet peeve). Keep them locked. It seems like every time I walk the dorms, I am pulling duct tape off the doors and moving trash cans out of the room. If someone is going to steal from you, at least make them work for it! Lock your doors when you leave, and don't let anyone use your keys.

Make it a Habit: Many people watch diligently when on campus only to let their guard down when they go into town. It seems ironic to me that one would be more careful where it's safer and less careful where it is more dangerous just because they're used to being there. I feel more at risk at 2:00 am at Walmart than I ever do on campus. Make safety habits a practice you take everywhere.

Trust Your Instincts: You know that feeling you get when something is wrong. Trust it. Call someone. Turn on your flashlight. Call Campus Safety. Go to a public building where there are people. But you'll feel silly, right? You might, but wouldn't you rather feel silly instead of being in a bad situation? Follow your instinct!



Know Your Campus Safety Officers: The last (but not least) officer I have to introduce to you is Mike. Mike has been with Barton for over a year now. He works the early morning shift for us. He has worked security for quite a while before he came to Barton. He is married and has one grown daughter that works in law enforcement. He is pretty easy to talk to, so feel free to say hi if you get moving in the early morning hours

Lucas Stoelting
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Lead Officer



Campus safety
takes all of us.

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Rave Guardian.

