



SAFER CAMPUS

Lane Community College Public Safety, In Service to
Higher Education

Issue 4 Volume 7

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Chief's Note

**Reporting crime is
Everyone's respon-
sibility. If you wit-
ness or hear about
a crime, contact
Public Safety for
assistance.**

**Ext. 5558 (non-
emergency) and
5555 (Emergency)**

DRIVING SAFELY IN RAINY CONDITIONS

Losing control of your car on wet pavement is a terrifying experience. You can prevent skids by driving slowly and carefully, especially on curves. Steer and brake with a light touch. When you need to stop or slow, do not brake hard or lock the wheels and risk a skid. Instead, maintain light pressure on the brake pedal.



If you do find yourself in a skid, remain calm, ease your foot off the gas, and carefully steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. For cars without anti-lock brakes, avoid using your brakes. This procedure, known as "steering into the skid," will bring the back end of your car in line with the front. If your car has Automatic Braking System (ABS), brake firmly as you steer into the skid.

While skids on wet pavement may be frightening, hydroplaning is worse and can be even more dangerous. Hydroplaning happens when the water in front of your tires builds up faster than your car's weight can push it out of the way. The water pressure causes your car to rise up and slide on a thin layer of water between your tires and the road. At this point, your car can be completely out of contact with the road, and you are in danger of skidding or drifting out of your lane, or even off the road.

To avoid hydroplaning, keep your tires properly inflated, maintain good tread on your tires and replace them when necessary, slow down when roads are wet, and stay away from puddles. Try to drive in the tire tracks left by the cars in front of you.

If you find yourself hydroplaning, do not brake or turn suddenly. This could throw your car into a skid. Ease your foot off the gas until the car slows and you can feel the road again. If you need to brake, do it gently with light pumping actions. If your car has anti-lock brakes, then brake normally; the car's computer will mimic a pumping action, when necessary.

Be sure to change wiper blades, at least once a year, to ensure the best visibility possible during rainy conditions. Also, consider applying a rain repellent, such as Rain-X, to your windshield prior to driving, to provide an invisible film to repel rain from your window and allow even clearer vision.

Drive safely, everyone!

Challenging Conversations – LCC Public Safety Series

This series is intended to explore and highlight specific controversial topics that impact campus safety.

Guns on Campus

Perhaps no topic is more taboo or controversial than the question as to whether a college permits firearms on campus. In this case, the specific questions are: should employees be allowed to carry firearms while engaged in work activities and should the Public Safety Department be permitted to carry firearms, *as a part of* their work context.

In the first case, the Constitution provides (and so does state law) citizens to bear arms. In fact, what surprises and amazes many people is that Oregon is an open carry state. This means that any citizen, who may lawfully possess a firearm, may carry it openly on their person.



State law also grants certain powers to the Boards of Community Colleges. In this case Lane Community College's Board has a policy that allows for citizens to carry firearms on Lane Campuses, except those who are employees engaged in work activities.

To put it plainly, a student who has a conceal-carry permit may carry a firearm anywhere on campus. A faculty member, Public Safety officer, or electrician, regardless of open or licensed concealment, may not carry a firearm, while engaged in work activity.

In fact, the policy is written so oddly, one may easily hypothesize that it was created with Public Safety in mind.

In my opinion, the Board policy – if it remains unchanged- will eventually be challenged in a court of law.

Regardless, in the current threat environment in the United States, with regard to the prevalence of violent actors, affording individuals, engaged in work activities at least as much privilege as the students they serve, seems a most reasonable approach to fairness, common sense, and parity.

It also would cast a resounding vote of confidence in both respect and support of faculty and staff, their common sense, and their ability to act responsibly while they are engaged in work activities.

The next issue is the question of Public Safety carrying firearms. This issue is complicated by the basic nature of Public Safety, enforcement of rules, laws, policies, procedures, etc. In fact, one of the most frequent calls for service in this Department is to calls for disorderly conduct, harassment, stalking, domestics, and other disturbances.

My impression is that the general opinion has been a subtle shifting in *most* opinions that Public Safety should probably be allowed to carry firearms. This is based on unsolicited comments; individuals who attend violent actor training frequently ask why Public Safety is not armed and what they can do to accomplish this.

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Guns (Continued from Pg. 2)

Understanding the Perceptions versus the Realities

The majority of Public Safety is currently comprised of former deputies, police officers, and persons trained and certified as deputies and police officers. In addition, many officers also have current positions as firearms instructors, military members, and other jobs in the federal and private sectors where they carry firearms, *daily* or on a regular basis.

These individuals have all been trained and certified to handle and use firearms to a much greater extent than average conceal-carry permit holder. They have been rigorously trained not only in the physical handling and retention of firearms but trained to use them in the specific context of the law.

Still, the thought of Public Safety officers carrying firearms makes people “nervous”. I often marvel, but am not surprised, at the willingness and frequency that others wish to assert their authority over the Public Safety Department, its officers, and of course it’s chief. Imagine having subject matter experts constantly subjected to the ignorance and fear of lay persons. Superimpose your imagining on the reality of a very dangerous world and a very dangerous profession. Sigh.

So, officers risk their lives each day to use the best practices and standards to bring an extremely enlightened, educational, and flexible approach to law enforcement and order maintenance. In return, they are not trusted to carry and prudently use, in accordance with the law, firearms. The unequivocal message is: You may not protect yourself or others with the best tools available, because we (a largely opinionated but influential minority), “do not *like* it”.

In fairness to the naysayers, there are a few myths and misconceptions that should be addressed.

Officers are simply trying to become police

Well, most officers have been police or sheriff’s deputies. They understand and appreciate the difference between college law enforcement and mainstream law enforcement. Also, a firearm does not confer “police status” onto officers. There are many people, bank guards, armored car drivers, and security officers who carry firearms and who are not, coincidentally, police.

Officers will misuse or frequently use these new tools.

Officers have been carrying batons and pepper spray for years. These tools have been rarely used and always used in accordance with policy, law, and when it was appropriate to do so.

These tools are relatively effective when combined with effective training, and policy. Firearms would be no different.

It’s too expensive to purchase firearms and train officers.

In order to test, train, and equip a majority of officers, it would cost an estimated \$10-15,000 for implementation and another \$4-5,000/ year for annualized training and re-certification.

Won’t more firearms on campus be more dangerous?

Some Instructors, faculty, and staff are already carrying firearms. It is not, necessarily, the legitimate, legally trained individuals that add to the lack of safety.

There are so few colleges and universities that are carrying firearms. What will people think if Lane joins Clackamas as only the second community college with officers carrying firearms?

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They might think that the times are changing and that the school is changing with them. They might believe that a proactive, responsible response to threats, especially on campuses with distant traditional law enforcement response, is prudent. Parents might think that LCC is taking action to increase safety, not just citing it as a strategic direction. Like the world we live in, leadership evolves.

In addition, several community colleges are situated immediately proximate or within a jurisdiction that has extremely rapid law enforcement response available. In two recent emergency situations, the nearest officer for Lane Community College was Lorraine and Cottage Grove. Unfortunately with as few as 1-2 patrol deputies on duty in the entire county, it is difficult to imagine that they will be here in time to interdict a violent or extremely dangerous situation (within 2-10 minutes, typical duration depending on incident type as compared with multi-source data and variable incident definitions and locations.)



If you are currently using other defensive weapons on an infrequent basis, why waste money on guns?

On the day, even if it is as infrequent as once in say 25 years, a firearm will actually be needed, it will be needed. On that day, the tool will have earned the investment in training and the costs of the equipment, because someone will have been defended from being killed.

It is important to note that some armed officers go through their entire career without firing a weapon.

My first priority when thinking about Lane Community College is the safety of the community and the protection of the facilities. The reality is that people and our society are changing. America is unfortunately becoming a more dangerous place to live and work. Like any other threat, my concern is to eliminate it or mitigate it - to promote the safety of our institution. My objective is *always* to engage the best practices to accomplish this, based on my experience, training, and expertise. To attempt any less would be inconsistent with not only my profession, but my sense of responsibility, ethics, and integrity. Also, I have a keen sense of responsibility and obligation to my staff. They all wish to go home to their loved ones each day they work, as I am sure all other members of our campus community would like to do.

Innovation is a Lane Community College Core Value (see below) and A Safe Learning and Working environment is a Strategic Direction.

Innovation

- Supporting creativity, experimentation, and institutional transformation
 - Responding to environmental, technological and demographic changes
 - Anticipating and responding to internal and external challenges in a timely manner
- Acting courageously, deliberately and systematically in relation to change

Perhaps it is time to develop a plan that more fully realizes innovation and safety for all Lane Community College members.

Jace Smith, Chief
LCC Public Safety

Crime on Campus

***Select Cases on
Campus November, 2014**



**Have a crime tip?
Please call us with
your information at
(541) 463-5558**

Nov 3, College employee reported he had found drug paraphernalia in Bldg 10.

Nov 3, Victim reported Theft of backpack from smoking shelter in Lot L.

Nov 3, Report of road rage incident on Main Campus.

Nov 4, Medical Emergency on soccer field.

Nov 4, Officer responded to mechanical issue with elevator in Bldg 16.

Nov 4, Victim reported Theft of bicycle from Downtown Campus.

Nov 5, Officers investigated report of Offensive Littering on South Access Road.

Nov 6, Officer responded to non-injury traffic crash in Lot L.

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Nov 6, Officers investigated report of large amount of marijuana at Titan Court.

Nov 8, Officer discovered person defecating in alley behind Downtown Campus.

Nov 8, Officer contacted several people trespassing in Bldg 1.

Nov 9, Officer discovered Graffiti in Bldg 17

Nov 9, Officer found Graffiti in Bus Loop.

Nov 10, Officers investigated report of a possibly suicidal person on Main Campus.

Nov 12, Officers responded to two separate Medical Emergencies in Bldg 1.

Nov 12, Officers assisted LCSO at the scene of a vehicle crash on Gonyea Rd.

Nov 12, Officer assisted LCSO in locating a Missing Child on campus.

Nov 13, Officer discovered water leaks in Bldg 6

Nov 15, Officer responded to report of tenant tampering with smoke detector at Titan Court.

Nov 17, Medical Emergency, Titan Court.

Nov 17, Report of Suspicious Subject in Bldg 19.

Nov 18, Officers investigated Theft from soda machine in Center Bldg.

Nov 18, Medical Emergency in Center Bldg.

Nov 19, Report of Theft of Motor Vehicle, Lot B

Nov 19, Report of Theft of monitor, Bldg 15.

Nov 19, Report of Theft of books from Bookstore.

Nov 20, Officers contacted Suspicious Subject in the Center Bldg. Subject was cited for Theft.

Nov 20, Victim reported Theft from their Vehicle in Lot N

Nov 20, Officers investigated possible Suicidal Subject on Main Campus

Nov 21, Officers investigated missing student from Main Campus. Student was located and found to be safe.

Nov 22, Officer investigated two persons arguing in front of the Downtown Academic Bldg.

Nov 22, Officer investigated Suspicious Vehicle in Lot N.

Nov 23, Officer assisted Eugene Police in investigating Suspicious Conditions involving a student.

Nov 23, Officer discovered open containers of alcohol in vehicle, Lot B.

Nov 23, Officer investigated destruction of college property at Titan Court.

Nov 24, Officers assisted Lane County Sheriff's Office at scene of an accident at Gonyea and 30th.

Nov 24, Medical Emergency, Center Bldg.

Nov 24, Officers contacted a Disorderly Subject in Bldg 11.

Nov 25, Officer observed subject Reckless Driving in Lot B.

Nov 25, Victim reported Theft of tools from his vehicle in Lot B.

Nov 25, Officer investigated Missing Person from Bldg 16. Person was located and was fine.

Nov 25, Officer investigated report of Disorderly Subject in Bldg 5.

Nov 26, Officer investigated person seen Trespassing in the Downtown Academics Bldg.

Nov 26, Officer investigated reported Theft of college property near Bldg 8.

Nov 26, Officers investigated Dispute in front of Bldg 1.

Nov 28, Officer investigated Suspicious Vehicle in Lot L.



Officers You Should Know



Cadet Officer Robin Williams

Officer Williams was born in Fontana, California, then moved to the Eugene area with his family in 2005.

While attending school, Officer Williams did volunteer work for Greenhill Humane Society.

Officer Williams began attending LCC five days after high school graduation, and is currently pursuing an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice.

In January of this year, Officer Williams began volunteering as a Student Aide for the Public Safety Department. At the urging of the Criminal Justice Coordinator, Williams applied for the Public Safety Cadet Program. After a rigorous set of interviews, thorough background investigation and drug and physical screening, he was accepted into the program. Officer Williams successfully completed

the five-week Public Safety Academy, then endured an additional five weeks of Field Training.

Currently, Officer Williams is attending the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program at Lane. After successful completion, Williams will be a certified EMT.

Officer Williams is in the process of becoming certified in Law Enforcement Data Systems (LEDS) for Public Safety.

While he is off duty, Officer Williams enjoys bicycling, playing and writing music and spending time with his family.

Grain of Salt



Excited to Go Green? Not So Fast!

Although Oregon voters elected to legalize the possession of marijuana for personal use, it is still illegal to possess it on Lane Community College property.



Lane receives federal money for things such as Financial Aid, Federal Work Study Programs, etc. If LCC allowed marijuana on campus, we would lose that funding.

Please leave your weed at home!

Link to Newsletter: Lanecc.edu/psd/newsletter.html

Your feedback is valuable to us! If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to email me at thomasc@lanecc.edu

Sergeant Chantal Thomas, Officer 2, Editor in Chief