

Planning a party? Follow these helpful hints to keep it safe and fun for everyone . . .

BLACKSBURG POLICE SAFE PARTY PLANNING

The Blacksburg Police Department is encouraging Virginia Tech students who plan to have parties this semester to create and implement safe party plans. The primary purpose of these plans is to make your party events a safe place for both male and female attendees.

These plans should, at a minimum, include the following:

Crowd and Noise Control

Plan ahead to develop a guest list in order to avoid an overcrowded party, or, use a door monitor to count persons as they arrive and deny entry once your maximum number of persons is reached.

It is important to know who is at your party. Keep in mind that the guy that attends your party in September may be the guy who burglarizes your house/apartment in December.

Give your neighbors a “heads-up” about your event and provide them with your cell phone number in the event of crowd or noise becoming a nuisance.

Town of Blacksburg noise ordinance prohibits noise that travels across a property boundary, through a wall into another apartment, or that can be heard 50 feet from its source (13-103 Town Code)

Ensure that you have an adequate number of sober persons to monitor your party. Sober persons must be ready to speak with the police if they are called to your party.

If your party begins to get out of control, call the police for help in shutting it down.

Alcohol Awareness

Have a plan in place to avoid serving alcohol to attendees under the age of 21. Have non-alcoholic drinks on hand as well as food.

Limit or eliminate games that encourage binge drinking (Pong, etc).

Develop a theme for your event that takes the focus off “just alcohol.”

Sober attendees should monitor and identify persons who have had enough, persons too young to drink, and games getting out of control.

Sober attendees should routinely check the outside perimeter of the event location for intoxicated persons urinating, vomiting, or passed out.

Make sure your guests have a safe way to get home. Your number of designated drivers should be proportionate to your crowd size.

Safety for Female Attendees

Your parties should have a reputation for being a safe place for females to attend.

Take steps to educate your friends helping with your party on how to create a safe environment.

Provide information to females on who to go to if they need help.

Encourage all persons planning the party to be positive bystanders and to intervene to prevent sexual assaults.

Encourage female attendees to stay in pairs while at your party.

Sober attendees should monitor the party for the following unacceptable practices:

- Males trying to encourage females to drink more than they should.
- Males trying to separate a female from her friend or from the party.
- Males taking very intoxicated females to private areas of the house or apartment.
- Ensure that females who are intoxicated have a safe way to get home.

(Remember: If she is too drunk to say "no" and you take advantage of that, it's rape)

Ensure that females who are intoxicated do not leave with persons they don't know.

Ensure females do not leave drinks unattended.

Set boundaries inside your house or apartment where only residents are allowed to be during the party.

Make sure to have an emergency plan in the event of fire, medical emergencies, and physical altercations.