

INTOUCH

with the Office of Public Safety

List of OPS services just might surprise you

OPS retrieves keys, jumpstarts cars and offers more than just a safe campus

You're too ill to make it to the health center. You need assistance. Your parents are on the other side of the coast and your friends are nowhere in sight. Who do you call?

The Office of Public Safety.

Yes, the OPS officers will be more than willing to escort you to the health center and back to your dorm or apartment. In fact, OPS offers security escorts to anywhere around campus, even if all you need is someone to walk you to your vehicle.

But as obvious as OPS officers are, not many people realize just how much of a public service organization the OPS is, or how much convenience and security it can offer students, faculty, staff and visitors to the University.

Most of their services are free and all it takes is a phone call.

Normally, the OPS monitors and responds to approximately 200 calls during a 24 hour period.

In fact, from 5p.m.—8a.m., the OPS is the sole University contact for students, faculty, staff and visitors. It operates 24 hours, 365 days a year, providing information and assistance of all types in person and over the phone to anyone who needs help.

Security escort is only one on the list of OPS services.

OPS provides first aid and medical transport for injured individuals on campus, offers classes and seminars in crime prevention and self defense, and responds to service calls.

If you suddenly get the feeling you're going nowhere, (i.e., you've locked your keys in your car or the car is just plain dead) there's need to fear: OPS is here!

Yes, OPS retrieves the keys of absent-minded driv-



Photo by Michael Shindler

OPS Officer Robert Guse demonstrates one of OPS's services by assisting keyless University student Aiden Bungum.

ers and jumpstarts vehicles. Their lock-shop officers deal with all lock problems on campus 24 hours a day.

With safety on campus the major concern, OPS coordinates the night security of the dorms with student patrols on campus and generally handles all emergencies, hazards and life or property-threatening events.

For instance, if you push one of the more than 30 emergency call boxes around campus, you are located immediately on an alarm system and an officer is dispatched to get to you in a minute or less.

Though there are as many pranks as there are emergencies, Lieutenant Marge Bigelow said the OPS doesn't take anything lightly and handles each call as

'We want to protect the campus community and keep people safe in all ways...'

—Marge Bigelow,
OPS Lieutenant

if it were a real emergency. In her 19 years on the job, Bigelow has dealt with cases involving everything from harassment to a shoot-out.

"We like to consider ourselves a public service organization," said Bigelow. "We want to protect the campus community and keep people safe in all ways—whether they're in their living quarters or on campus. We're not the ogres who just write you tickets or are just out to grab you for misdemeanors."

OPS also has a lost and found department, they check out keys to buildings and access locked areas for people who don't have their keys, provide road condition information, crime and parking information and give maps and directions to students and visitors.

OPS also distributes crime prevention and personal safety literature, aides in contacting tow companies, the AAA, dispatches fire and ambulance units when necessary and offers 24 hour referral service directing callers to the proper departments and agencies regarding their concerns.

The OPS also has an environmental health department that deals with the occupational health and safety of student workers.

"We assist supervisors in designing conducive work conditions and environment and provide consultation on proper job training," said Kay Coats, safety officer.

You can be assured of assistance from OPS if you're anywhere within the University vicinity.

Students can find OPS located at 1319 E. 15th, between Straub Hall and Sheldon dorms, or call 346-5444.

—Ming Rodrigues



Office of Public Safety

Get to Know Us

The University of Oregon's Office of Public Safety (OPS) provides more than parking enforcement services to the University community.

In fact, the mission of the Office of Public Safety is to assist the University community in realizing the educational, research and public service opportunities at the University of Oregon by providing a safe, healthful and secure environment. In support of this purpose the Office of Public Safety provides timely and courteous services in the areas of personal safety, security, emergency response, information, instruction and training, prevention and investigation of crimes and violation of University rules, parking administration and enforcement, key lock and control, hazardous waste disposal, respirator distribution, radiation safety, health sanitation and occupational health. Additionally, the Office of Public Safety coordinates the University of Oregon's decentralized safety program including fire equipment programs and disaster planning, advises the administration on environmental issues and develops appropriate programs and procedures.

To accomplish this mission OPS and its staff work together with faculty, staff and student leaders as well as other departments to respond to needs of the campus. Through its five divisions (Security and Law Enforcement, Safety, Environmental Health, Locks and Keys, and Parking) the staff works with rule making committees on campus to establish rules and guidelines that ensure tolerance and respect for diverse viewpoints and coexistence of competing or conflicting interest and behaviors.

Both OPS and the University administration are here to serve you. We welcome your suggestions on how to make the University of Oregon a safer and more healthful community.

To share your ideas with a public safety representative, call (503) 346-2915.