



# READINESS RULES

“Knowledge Saves Lives”

<http://www.uosp.uga.edu>

University Office of Security Preparedness Bulletin

September 2003

**Introducing . . .** the first issue of the University Office of Security Preparedness (UOSP) bulletin, *Readiness Rules*. As the concern for security grows, so does the need to share information with the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Georgia community. This publication will be available on a bi-monthly basis.

**History . . .** The UOSP was created in July 2002, in response to the events of September 11, 2001, in an effort to address the increasing need for a centralized information point for security preparedness information for the University community.

**Purpose . . .** The goal of the University Office of Security Preparedness (UOSP) through various means such as: web site, training, brochures, and bulletins, is to provide information to assist University departments in making security decisions. The University Office of Security Preparedness focuses on providing information related to planning and managing the University of Georgia's security needs through three areas of focus: INFORMATION, AWARENESS, and READINESS. These three broad areas assist in identifying, and correcting security risks to the University's mission of teaching, research, and service.

## Campus View

Do you know this location on campus?



Answer: See page 2.

## Featured Article

### SEVIS and The University

**From the Office Staff of the Office of International Education, Fausto Sarmiento, Director**



In January 2003, the University of Georgia began using a governmentally mandated student tracking system, as part of legislation enabled to deal with the “Post-September 11 Syndrome”. This tracking system, known as the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), is meant to replace the paper-based process used by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) for the past few decades and to help implement newly created security measures. The transition to SEVIS for U.S. institutions has been difficult, requiring international offices to reorganize themselves in a few months. UGA has worked hard to meet the demands of SEVIS, the BCIS, and our international student population. Thanks to a special user fee, UGA students now enjoy a state-of-the-art operation that facilitates their immigration needs with a speedy electronically based process, placing UGA among the best Research Intensive institutions in the nation.

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SEVIS transition affected many in the UGA community, including the immigration staff of the Office of International Education (OIE), generating a significant increase in workload, requiring new staffing and reorganization of traditional schemes, and changing the nature and ways that work is done. The government system has forced staff to become enforcers of BCIS laws as they keep up with SEVIS alerts and notifications to BCIS of student activities, while nurturing internationalization of campus. SEVIS has affected international students at UGA. Students are now required to check-in with the international office more frequently than in the past with new documentation for visa, authorization for travel, reinstatements, and insurance.

The impact of SEVIS on Fall 2003 international enrollment is yet to be determined. The number of internationals accepted to UGA is slightly down, consistent with a national trend; but, whether this is due to SEVIS is hard to tell. The repercussions of September 11, 2001 and security systems such as SEVIS may not be fully known for several years.



### Campus Alerts

Official UGA News Releases, information on alerts, or emergency events pertaining to the University of Georgia, and additional information on the Federal Alert Status and related links to emergency preparedness can be found on the University Office of Security Preparedness (UOSP) web site at:

<http://www.uosp.uga.edu>



Upcoming Issue: Travel Safety Tips

Sign up to receive issues of *Readiness Rules* by e-mail. Click on **“bulletin by e-mail”** located on the [home / contact us](#) bar on the UOSP web site.

### Campus on Alert: What does it mean?

Threats to security are in a constant state of flux nationally. The changes can range from subtle to extremely volatile reactions to events occurring worldwide. In order to provide the maximum amount of time to adjust to changing events, the University Office of Security Preparedness' web site will display information continuously about the National Alert Status. The alert status information will be provided in two ways. First, the color-coded National Alert Status used by the Federal Department of Homeland Security will be displayed in the upper right hand corner of the web page. Secondly, in the "AWARENESS" section of the web page, under Campus Alert, information will be provided to explain the status of the alert as it pertains to the University of Georgia, and provide as much pertinent information that is available to help prepare for the various threat levels.

The alert status provided by the Federal Department of Homeland Security will flash on the University Office of Security Preparedness (UOSP) web site <http://www.uosp.uga.edu> to get the attention of the viewer. These alerts are important and will not only help us prepare to address emergencies on campus, but in our personal lives as well. The campus is only protected when every individual actively participates in staying informed and being aware of what goes on in their environment. Events occurring in your surroundings may be important to the security of the entire campus. It is therefore requested that employees and students participate in the campus security effort by reporting suspicious activity as soon as possible to the University Police Department.

### DID YOU KNOW?



The UGA Sanford Stadium will have an approximate seating capacity of 92,000 when construction is completed for the 2003 football season.

**Answer:** These flags are flown in front of the Butts-Mehre Building on campus.