

WELCOME TO THE BLUE COUGAR PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE!



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FIRST ADDITION – 1ST QUARTER OF 2017

The CBC Department of Public Safety (CBCDPS) is pleased to announce the premiere addition of the Blue Cougar Safety Quarterly. This publication is a collection of safety information for the use of students and employees. This periodical will be updated each quarter to provide students and employees with material and suggestions concerning personal safety issues and information.

It is our intention to maintain a safe and positive atmosphere conducive to both learning and working in a collegiate environment. The content of this publication will contain many articles intended to provide the CBC Community with meaningful, helpful, and relevant facts and information. Topics will abound with info on various facets of safety and living a safe and healthy lifestyle.

The Blue Cougar will contain articles on Texas law, college policies, personal safety, workplace safety, and an occasional story on current events of interest.

The Blue Cougar will also include websites that can provide you with information on area events and services, as well as other tips and useful things to know. Topics will include Dating safety tips, tips to avoid financial scams, personal safety, state and local laws and ordinances, college policies.

Security on campus is an issue across many schools. Mishaps can occur when students aren't alert at night, or drink too much or make decisions under the influence. 1,825

students die each year from alcohol-related injuries alone. Furthermore, drug and alcohol use can lead to academic issues or potentially dangerous situations.

Even in relatively low crime areas such as college campuses, students should know how to keep themselves safe when socializing and going out with friends. Each addition of the Blue Cougar will include college social life safety tips and ways to increase your security both on and off campus, as well as avoidance techniques to peer pressure to drink alcohol or take illegal drugs.

In closing I can assure you that your collegiate dream will be exciting and a true learning adventure. Be careful not to turn a dream into a nightmare.

BLUE COUGAR TIPS

REMEMBER TO;

- Be AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS
- Be AWARE OF YOUR LOCATION
- Be AWARE OF PEOPLE AROUND YOU
- HAVE AN ESCAPE STRATEGY



THE BLUE COUGAR QUARTERLY



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Did you know?

A Certified Bee Campus USA College



Identity Theft

This article represents a fairly comprehensive list of actions that you should take or consider to avoid becoming the victim of identity theft.

- **Destroy private records and statements.** IF you don't need them, burn them. Destroy credit card statements, solicitations and other documents that contain any private information. Shred this paperwork using a "cross-cut" shredder so thieves can't find your data when they rummage through your garbage. Also, don't leave a paper trail; never leave ATM, credit card or gas station receipts behind.
- **Secure your mail.** Empty your mailbox quickly, lock it or get a P.O. Box so criminals don't have a chance to steal credit card offers. Never mail outgoing bill payments and checks from an unsecured mailbox, especially at home. They can be stolen from your mailbox and the payee's name erased with solvents. Mail them from the post office or another secure location.
- **Safeguard your Social Security number.** Never carry your card with you, or any other card that may have your number, like a health insurance card or school issued ID. Don't put your number on your checks; your SSN is the primary target for identity thieves because it gives them access to your credit report and bank accounts. There are very few entities that can actually demand your SSN - the Department of Motor Vehicles, for example. Also, SSNs are required for transactions involving taxes, so that means banks, brokerages, employers, and the like also have a legitimate need for your SSN.
- **Safeguard your computer.** Protect your computer from viruses and spies. Use complicated passwords; frequently update antivirus software and spyware. Surf the Web cautiously. Shop only at trustworthy web sites

and be wary of obscure sites or any site you've never used before.

- **Know who you're dealing with.** Whenever you are contacted, either by phone or email, by individuals identifying themselves as banks, credit card or e-commerce companies and asked for private identity or financial information, do not respond. Legitimate companies do not contact you and ask you to provide personal data such as PINs, user names and passwords or bank account information over the phone or Internet. If you think the request is legitimate, contact the company yourself by calling customer service using the number on your account statement or in the telephone book and confirm what you were told before revealing any of your personal data.
- **Take your name off marketers' hit lists.** In addition to the national **Do Not Call Registry** (1-888-382-1222 or <https://www.donotcall.gov>), you also can reduce credit card solicitations for five years by contacting an opt-out service run by the three major credit bureaus: (888) 5-OPT OUT or <https://www.optoutprescreen.com>. You'll need to provide your Social Security number as an identifier.
- **Guard your personal information.** Ask questions whenever anyone asks you for personal data. How will the information be used? Why must I provide this data? Ask anyone who does require your Social Security number, for instance, cell phone providers, what their privacy policy is and whether you can arrange for the organization not to share your information with anyone else.
- **Monitor your credit report.** Each year, obtain and thoroughly review your credit report from the three major credit bureaus; Equifax (800-685-1111), Experian (883-397-3742) and TransUnion (800-680-4213) or at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com> to look for suspicious activity. If you spot something, alert your card company or the creditor immediately.
- **Review your bank and credit card statements carefully.** Look for unauthorized charges or withdrawals and report them immediately. Make sure you recognize the merchants, locations and purchases listed before paying the bill. If you don't need or use department store or bank-issued credit cards, consider closing the accounts.

- **Keep track of your billing dates/cycles** and follow up with creditors if you don't receive bills/statements on time.

- **Use random letters and numbers for passwords;** don't use your mother's maiden name, your birth date, your graduation date, your social security number or any other familiar letters or numbers that can be associated with you as passwords.

- **Be aware of how ID thieves can get your information.** They get information from businesses or other institutions by stealing records, bribing employees with access to records, hacking into computers, rummaging through trash, posing as a landlord, employer, or someone else who may have a legal right to the information, stealing credit and debit card numbers as your card is processed by using a special information storage device ("skimming"), stealing wallets and purses containing identification and credit or bank cards, stealing mail, including bank and credit card statements, pre-approved credit offers, new checks, or tax information or completing a "change of address form" to divert your mail to another location.



If your identity is stolen

In today's complex and computer centered society, many criminals thrive on innocent credit card and bank account holders by stealing numbers and other identifiers to your cards and accounts. Below are found some very comprehensive steps to take to protect yourself from being defrauded.

- **Contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus.** Tell them that you're an identity theft victim. Request that a "fraud alert" be placed in your file, along with a victim's statement asking that creditors call you before opening any new accounts or changing your existing accounts.

1. **Equifax** To report fraud: 1-800-525-6285 (P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241),
2. **Experian** To report fraud: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742) (P.O. Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013), and
3. **TransUnion** To report fraud: 1-800-680-7289 (Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92634)

- **Contact the creditors** for any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Speak with someone in the security/fraud department of each creditor, and follow up with a letter.
- **If your Social Security number has been used illegally**, contact the Social Security Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271.
- **File a report with the Police Department** in the community where the identity theft took place. Get a copy of the police report in case the bank, credit-card Company, or others need proof of the crime.
- **Keep records** of everything involved in your efforts to clear up fraud, including copies of written correspondence and records of telephone calls.



Protecting yourself from Theft

Theft and the act of stealing property is a crime of opportunity. By eliminating or at least reducing opportunity, you reduce your chances of having your possessions and

property stolen. Below are some actions you should consider.

- When leaving your dorm room, home, or office, lock doors and windows even if you will be gone for "just a minute."
- Never leave your purse, wallet, or valuables exposed; store them out of sight. Be especially careful with your credit cards, which are very popular items among thieves because they are usually easy to steal and then use again. Consider obtaining a credit card with your photo imprinted on it.
- Computers, especially if they are portable, are primary targets of theft. Consider the purchase of a locking security or tracking device.
- Contact the hall staff to borrow engravers; engrave computers, stereos, and televisions with your driver's license number (including home state) or department name. Do not engrave on removable serial number plates.
- Keep a list of all items and serial numbers in a safe place.
- Never prop open a locked door.



Safety at Work

- If you're working late, let someone know where you are and how long you expect to be; or better yet, plan in advance to have a co-worker stay with you.
- Keep your purse or wallet locked in a drawer or filing cabinet at all times.

- Politely ask strangers who they are visiting and offer to help find the person; if you are suspicious of the person contact the Police.
- Check the identification of any maintenance or repair personnel. CBC personnel are all issued CBC photo identification cards.
- Keep emergency phone numbers posted near your phone.
- Know your office or dorm emergency evacuation plan.
- If possible, employees should wear IDs. This is a best practice, as most CBC employees do not wear a uniform or other identifiers of their affiliation with CBC.
- Be cautious if using restrooms, elevators or stairwells that are isolated or poorly lit; or go with a friend.
- Keep money, check books, or other valuable items out of sight.
- Report any suspicious, threatening or alarming behavior of others to your supervisor, CBCDPS, or local Police immediately.

Cell Phone protection

- Carry your phone with you whenever possible and make sure it is in a safe place whenever you leave it behind. If you are leaving your phone in your car, be sure it is hidden from view.
- Turn off your phone when you are not using it.
- Request a personal identification number.
- Use the "lock" feature on your phone.
- Report a stolen cellular telephone

immediately to the cellular telephone carrier and Police.

- Check your monthly bills carefully, and report unfamiliar calls to your cellular phone company.
- Do not give out your electronic serial number or even your phone number to strangers, including callers who represent themselves as technicians testing your line.
- Keep your subscriber agreement, which includes your electronic serial number, in a secure location.



Motor vehicle safety

- Park in well lighted areas, where your vehicle is visible; avoid parking next to vans or trucks.
- Keep all items out of sight, especially valuables. Remove or place CD players/cases, etc. in the trunk.
- Service your vehicle regularly to avoid breakdowns.
- Keep your vehicle locked at all times.
- Consider "The CLUB" or an alarm system.
- When leaving your car for service, remove your other keys.
- Have your key ready when you approach your car. Before getting in, check inside and under your car to make sure no one is hiding.

When you are driving

- Carry a cell phone.
- Never let fuel level get below ¼ tank.
- Drive on well-traveled streets and keep your car in gear while it is stopped. Allow at least one car length space between your car and the car in front of you so that you can escape should someone try to get into your car.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and check your rear view mirror often.
- Keep doors locked and windows shut and keep valuables out of sight; either covered or in the trunk.
- If your car breaks down, open the hood and stay inside. If someone stops to help, do not open your window or door, but have him or her call for assistance.
- If you do not know the location of your destination, ask someone for specific directions before you leave.
- If you get lost, do not pull over until you find a well-lit public area, and then call the police.
- If you suspect you are being followed, drive to a well-lit public area and call the police.
- Always carry an emergency kit in your vehicle with first aid supplies, flares, flashlight, jumper cables, blanket, etc.
- **Never pick up hitchhikers.**
- Beware of people who yell, honk, and point at your car as if something is wrong; if your car breaks down, stay inside and lock the doors. If anyone approaches to help, crack the window and ask them to call the Police. Ask uniformed people to show identification.
- Beware of people who motion and ask you to stop and lend assistance; if you want to assist someone whose car has broken down, go to the nearest phone or use your cell phone and call the Police.

- Beware of people who may bump your vehicle from behind; if you think you were bumped intentionally, signal the other person to follow you to the nearest police station.

- If a person with a weapon confronts you and wants your vehicle, give it up. No car is worth being injured or losing your life over.



Handguns and Carrying a Handgun on Campus

CBC supports the right of License Holders to carry on CBC property in accordance with Texas Law. It is important for our College Community to understand this law and the rights and attendant responsibilities of the License Holder. The questions and answers below represent a fair and impartial explanation of this new addition to an existing law.

[1. May a Handgun License Holder carry a handgun openly in Texas?](#)

Yes. The 84th Texas Legislature changed the law to permit open carry by License Holders in most places in Texas beginning January 1, 2016.

[2. Does Texas' "Open Carry" law allow an Handgun License Holder to carry a handgun openly on CBC property?](#)

No. The law permitting the carrying of handguns openly (in a shoulder or belt holster) is distinct from the Campus Carry law. Furthermore, the Open Carry law expressly prohibits a License Holder from carrying a handgun openly on the campus of an institution of higher education such as Coastal Bend College. The only exception is the Peace Officer exception. Commissioned Peace Officers are not required to have a LTC by virtue of their status as law enforcement officers and have considerable more power to carry in locations otherwise restricted to LTC holders.

[3. What is Texas' "Campus Carry" law?](#)

"Campus Carry" is the common name for the law that authorizes a License Holder to carry a concealed handgun at institutions of higher education in Texas. This authorization is subject to the institution's reasonable rules and regulations, as explained below. SB 11, 84th Legislature changed the law and is codified as Section 411.2031, Texas Government Code.

[4. Does the Campus Carry law allow anyone to carry a concealed weapon at Coastal Bend College?](#)

No. The law does not grant a universal right to carry a concealed weapon on campus. The law applies only to License Holders. Note that Texas Peace Officers, whether on or off duty, have a statutory right to carry their handgun and are not controlled by the Section 411 or other State laws otherwise prohibiting the carrying of a handgun, whether concealed or carried openly.

[5. What is required for a person to be eligible for a License Holder in Texas?](#)

Generally, an applicant must meet 14 distinct standards to receive a license to carry a handgun in Texas. Among those are requirements that the applicant be a legal resident of Texas for six months prior to application; be at least 21 years of age (or a member of the military or veteran not dishonorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces); have no felony convictions; not be currently facing certain criminal charges; not be chemically dependent; and be capable of exercising sound judgment with respect to the proper use and storage of a handgun.

Applicants for a Handgun License in Texas must also demonstrate handgun proficiency by taking and satisfactorily completing a handgun use and safety course taught by a qualified instructor. (Exemptions from parts of this requirement exist for certain applicants, such as honorably discharged military veterans.)

[6. What does it mean to have a license to carry \(LTC\)?](#)

Texas state law permits eligible persons to apply for and receive a license to carry a handgun on their person.

[7. What weapons are covered under the license to carry permit?](#)

The statute covers only handguns. A handgun is a pistol, revolver or other firearm the length of the barrel, which, not including any revolving, detachable, or magazine breech, does not exceed 12 inches. Other weapons — rifles or shotguns — are not permitted in on the grounds or in the buildings of the college.

[8. If Texas has reciprocity with another state and that state allows concealed carry at age 18, can a license holder from the other state who is younger than 21 carry a handgun in Texas?](#)

No. License holders from other states must comply with Texas law regarding carrying a handgun when carrying in Texas, including age restrictions.

Implementation

[1. What process did CBC use to establish institution-specific policies for the carry of concealed handguns on campus?](#)

President Dr. Beatrice T. Espinoza met with a panel of key stakeholders, including representatives of students, law enforcement, faculty and site vendors, in order to seek their input on the direction CBC should take in establishing a Campus Carry policy. Taking that input, she then directed the CBC Safety Committee to create a policy that conformed to Texas State Law concerning Campus Carry. The Director of Public Safety then made recommendations to the President, who adopted the proposed policies, which were then reviewed and accepted by the Coastal Bend College Board of Trustees at t.

[2. Will the college monitor the implementation of the new law?](#)

Yes, the college will monitor its impact on faculty, staff and students. CBC's Campus Carry Implementation Task Force also acknowledges continued, significant concerns about how the law will affect the institution's ability to recruit and retain faculty members and students.

If problems develop, we will work to understand the causes and make adjustments to the policies, rules, and practices, consistent with the law.

[3. What qualifies as a "sole occupant office"?](#)

A sole occupant office is a room with at least one door and walls that extend to the ceiling that is assigned to a single person as his or her workspace that is not generally open to the public.

[4. What is oral notice, and how should it be given in a legally effective way?](#)

Oral notice is notification spoken by the sole occupant of an office that clearly communicates to someone who might enter the office that concealed carry of handguns is not permitted in there. Such notice is effective only to the individual, or individuals, to whom the notification was given. For example, if you give oral notification to a group of students on the first day of class, and a student was not present because he or she had not joined the course yet, then legally effective notice has not been given to that student. Faculty or staff members must ensure that they have provided proper notification to all individuals who might enter that office. A statement included in a syllabus is not a legally effective notification.

[5. How does Campus Carry change the way things have been at CBC until now?](#)

License Holders could already carry concealed handguns on CBC's driveways, streets, sidewalks, walkways, parking lots, parking garages and other parking areas. As of August 1, 2016, Campus Carry allows a License Holder to carry a concealed handgun in campus buildings unless expressly prohibited. The law allows CBC to develop reasonable rules and regulations regulating the carrying of concealed handguns by License Holders.

[6. Can Coastal Bend College establish a policy that prevents License Holders from bringing their handguns on CBC sites?](#)

No. CBC may establish "reasonable rules" regulating the carrying of concealed handguns by License Holders, so long as those rules do not "generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting License Holders from carrying concealed handguns on the campus of the institution." CBC may also adopt policies concerning the storage of handguns in residential facilities but CBC is

not required to provide gun storage for license holders.

Exclusion Zones

[1. Are there any places that a holder cannot carry a concealed handgun?](#)

Yes. Texas state law, including sections 46.02, 46.03, and 46.035 of the Texas Penal Code, prohibits handguns and other weapons in certain places when properly signed, including but not limited to:

- On the premises of a business that derives 51 percent or more of its income from the sale or service of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption.
- On the premises where a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting or interscholastic event is taking place.
- On the premises of a correctional facility.
- On the premises of a hospital or nursing home (without proper authorization).
- In an amusement park.
- On the premises of a church, synagogue, or other place of worship.

In addition, the rules regulating concealed carry at CBC create "gun exclusion zones" that include:

Benton Hall Dormitories all dorm rooms with exceptions for visitors and family members.

High Hazard Laboratories, defined by the possession of more than 55 gallons of Class I flammable liquids and/or significant quantities of acids, bases, organics, pyrophorics, peroxides, extremely toxic materials or pyrophoric or toxic gases classified National Fire Protection Association 704 Category 3 or higher.

Any location where pre-K-12 activities are held (Texas Penal Code 46.03(a)(1).)

CBC daycare facility

Sporting events held on property owned or leased by CBC.

Patient care areas which includes our Dental Hygiene Building.

Sole occupant assigned offices (not generally open to the public) where the individual occupant provides oral notice that the concealed carry of handguns is prohibited there.

[2. Are concealed handguns permitted at activities on campus sponsored by pre-K-12 schools?](#)

No. Handguns are not permitted at school-sponsored activities. Such activities are defined as tours, demonstrations, field trips, events, clubs, classes, clinics, programs, etc., that are held on CBC property and authorized by a pre-K-12 school district or individual schools as a curricular, co-curricular, or interscholastic activity and are managed or supervised in part by the district or school, or district or school employee.

[3. Are concealed handguns permitted in patient care areas?](#)

No. The concealed carry of handguns is prohibited in patient-care areas, including those areas in which health services are provided such as in the Dental Hygiene Building on the Beeville Site.

[4. For employees who carry, what should they do if they work in a building where concealed carry is permitted, but have meetings in excluded areas?](#)

Because there is no storage for guns on CBC sites, it is advised that you check in advance regarding the status of the building or office you will be visiting to make sure that guns are not excluded from the location. You may use your normal work breaks, including lunch, if necessary, to store your gun in your locked car or at a location off campus.

Safety

[1. What should I do if I see a handgun or any other type of weapon on campus?](#)

Call 911. A License Holder is required to keep the handgun out of sight. If you see a person on campus with a weapon, you can help with campus safety by alerting police about suspicious activity. At some point notification of the Director of Public Safety for Coastal Bend College would be appropriate, but safety is paramount and if you feel unsafe you should always contact local law enforcement as your first priority. PLEASE NOTE that

accidental, inadvertent display of an otherwise lawfully concealed handgun is not an offense.

[2. Can a License Holder carry his/her handgun in a backpack or purse?](#)

Yes, but the backpack or purse must be on or about the License Holder's person and the handgun must be in a holster that completely covers the trigger and entire trigger guard area.

[3. Is there any safety training for what I should do in an active shooter situation?](#)

CBC encourages all faculty, staff, and students to view the "Run, Hide, Fight" active shooter training video, as well as to attend in-service trainings concerning active shooter situations.

[4. How can I appeal a decision regarding the implementation of the policy?](#)

Provide, in writing, a request for appeal to the CBC Director of Public Safety who will then bring the appeal before the CBC Safety and Security Committee who will review the appeal and provide a recommendation to the President for review and decision.



SOBERING THOUGHTS

COLLEGE DRINKING - CHANGING THE CULTURE

Prevalence

- **Prevalence of Drinking:** According to the 2015 NSDUH, 58.0 percent of full-time college students ages 18–22 drank alcohol in the past month compared with

48.2 percent of other persons of the same age.¹

- **Prevalence of Binge Drinking:** According to the 2015 NSDUH, 37.9 percent of college students ages 18–22 reported binge drinking in the past month compared with 32.6 percent of other persons of the same age.¹
- **Prevalence of Heavy Drinking:** According to the 2015 NSDUH, 12.5 percent of college students ages 18–22 reported heavy alcohol use in the past month compared with 8.5 percent of other persons of the same age.¹
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). Table 6.84B—Tobacco Product and Alcohol Use in Past Month among Persons Aged 18 to 22, by College Enrollment Status: Percentages, 2014 and 2015. Available at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DetTabs-2015/NSDUH-DetTabs-2015.htm#tab6-84b>.

Consequences

Researchers estimate that each year:

- 1,825 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor-vehicle crashes.¹
- 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking.²
- 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 report experiencing alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape.³
- Roughly 20 percent of college students meet the criteria for an AUD.⁴
- About 1 in 4 college students report academic consequences from drinking, including missing class, falling behind in class, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall.⁵

**THINK BEFORE YOU
DRINK**

INFORMATION SOURCES

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² Hingson R, Heeren T, Winter M. et al. Magnitude of alcohol-related mortality and morbidity among U.S. college students ages 18–24: changes from 1998 to 2001. *Annual Review of Public Health* 26: 259–279, 2005. PMID: 15760289 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15760289>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Blanco, C.; Okuda, M.; Wright, C. et al. Mental health of college students and their non-college-attending peers: Results from the National Epidemiologic Study on Alcohol and Related Conditions. *Archives of General Psychiatry* 65(12):1429–1437, 2008. PMID: 19047530 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2734947/>

⁵ Wechsler, H.; Dowdall, G.W.; Maenner, G.; et al. Changes in binge drinking and related problems among American college students between 1993 and 1997: Results of the Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study. *Journal of American College Health* 47(2):57–68, 1998. PMID: 9782661 <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/07448489809595621>

<https://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/>

