Hello! Welcome to the Orientation for New Faculty and Administrators. My name is Rhonda Harris. I am the Assistant Vice President of Public Safety and the Chief of Police for the Old Dominion University.

Members of our Public Safety Division are responsible for enhancing safety and ensuring compliance for the campus community consisting of more than 30,000 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and visitors who are affiliated with the university and the surrounding community.

Our Public Safety Division is a collaborative effort involving the areas of Emergency Management, Environmental Health and Safety, the Police Department, Risk Management, and Security Technology Services. Together we are responsible for serving, protecting, and educating the campus community and surrounding neighborhoods, with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for all of our members.

Old Dominion University’ Crisis and Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) includes information about Emergency Operations Teams, University declarations of emergency, incident priorities and performance expectations, shelter-in-place and evacuation guidelines, and local contingency and continuity planning requirements. University departments are responsible for developing contingency plans and continuity of operations plans for their staff and areas of responsibility. The University conducts numerous emergency response exercises each year, such as table top exercises, field exercises, and tests of the emergency notification systems on campus. These tests are designed to assess and evaluate the emergency plans and the capabilities of the institution.

Old Dominion University has made a serious commitment to fire safety. A full-time Fire Protection Inspector in the Office of Risk Management is dedicated to education and ensuring compliance, with a goal to reduce the risk of fire-related incidents and to mitigate the severity of any fire incident for the safety of our community. ODU works closely with the Municipal Fire Departments and the Virginia State Fire Marshal’s Office to meet or exceed applicable local and state code requirements.
The Environmental Health & Safety Office (EHSO) is responsible for the administration of programs that promote a safe and healthful environment for our University community. This is accomplished through prudent application of sound environmental and occupational safety and health practices.

The office is guided by the following areas of emphasis:

• Assist the University community in achieving compliance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental, occupational safety and health and public health laws and regulations.
• Provide professional consultation, educational programs and training to promote safe work practices, protect the environment, and maintain regulatory compliance.
• Pursue close communication, trust and commitments with the University and regulatory agencies that will foster cooperation in achieving departmental goals and regulatory compliance.

The University Police Department is a full-service, state-certified police agency committed to providing professional police and safety services to members of the university community and to residents of the concurrent patrol area adjacent to campus. The department proactively addresses policing, safety, and security-related issues. Likewise, the department strives to educate members of our University community regarding their partnership role with the department to maintain a safe campus environment. Safety is everyone’s responsibility.

Should a situation arise that is confirmed to pose an immediate threat to the health and safety of students or employees, an ODU Emergency Notification will be issued to all registered users of ODU Alerts. The goal of an Emergency Notification is to notify as many people as possible, as rapidly as possible, of potential life safety information, with adequate follow-up information provided as needed. Additionally, the University has funded a safety app, the ODU LiveSafe App, which offers numerous features to enhance safety and improve communication between University Police and the community. All members of the university are encouraged to sign up for ODU Alerts and to download the ODU LiveSafe App free of charge.

The Police Department also houses the University Threat Education, Assessment, and Management Team (TEAM), a cross-functional, multidisciplinary group of University officials that meet at least weekly. The Team is responsible for evaluating and managing the risks associated with certain behaviors of concern that may pose a threat to the University community’s safety.
Here is the contact information for Threat TEAM members.

Remember that Old Dominion University is located in a vibrant urban setting and is subject to the same possibility of crime as any other city. We recommend that, just as in any urban setting, you remain aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts. Be mindful and remove valuables from plain view in your vehicle, and keep your personal property secure at all times. Always be aware of suspicious or unauthorized people around campus and report that activity immediately.

The Office of Risk Management is responsible for developing and implementing effective risk management, insurance, and loss control initiatives that serve to prevent or mitigate losses that may affect the University's physical and financial assets.

Security Technology Services is an integral part of public safety, committed to service delivery and support of the university mission through innovative uses of security technology. Security Technology Services

- Aligns with the mission and priorities of the University
- Delivers quality services in an effective manner
- Achieves measureable results for both innovation and operations
- Works collaboratively internally and externally

Social media is part of a holistic communications approach which allows Public Safety to engage and converse with the community and share information. This approach enhances the community policing philosophy of building community partnerships in order to address public safety issues and concerns.

Again, I welcome you to Old Dominion University, and I hope that you’ll find it a safe and fulfilling place to work.