OFF-CAMPUS CRIME ALERT

Sept. 27, 2013

STUDENT REPORTS BEING GRABBED BY MAN NEAR CAMPUS

An SMU student reported to SMU police today that an unknown man forcefully grabbed her by the arm as she walked in the 3400 block of Normandy Avenue just west of Hillcrest Avenue.

The student said she had gotten out of a taxi about 3 a.m. today and was walking along Normandy toward her off-campus residence when a male who was walking toward her grabbed her by the arm. She said she screamed, yanked her arm away and pointed a pepper spray dispenser at him. She said he then ran away.

The suspect is described as a black male in his early 20s, about 6 feet tall and muscularly built. He was clean shaven and had light to medium skin. He was wearing a white polo shirt, khaki shorts, and Sperry shoes. She said he had a black lanyard hanging out of his pocket.

The incident is being investigated by the University Park Police Department. Anyone with information about this matter is asked to contact the University Park Police Department at 214-363-3000 or the SMU Police Department at 214-768-3388. Information also may be reported anonymously through the SMU Police Department's Silent Witness Program by calling 214-SMU-2TIP or online at http://www.smu.edu/2tip.

Personal Safety Tips

- If you are the victim of a crime, call police immediately at 911. Time is of the essence in such situations.

- Always be aware of your surroundings, especially in parking lots and garages. Have your keys ready as you approach your car and lock your doors after entering.

- When walking or jogging, go against the flow of traffic so it is harder for motorists to bother you. (If harassed from a car, run. Scream if frightened.)

- Do not jog while wearing headphones. It's important to hear and see what is happening around you.

- If you must walk alone on campus at night, ask for an escort by calling the SMU police at 214-768-3333. Otherwise, go with friends and stay in well-lighted areas.

- If you see or hear anything suspicious, call 911 immediately.