

Safety first: Chapman community seeks increased emergency preparedness

The Chapman community seeks bulletproof solution to safety concerns in light of recent active shooter scare.

By Kate Markey



On Tuesday, December 15, at approximately 7:10 p.m. students of Chapman University began receiving notification via Panther Alert of possible shooter on campus. After about an hour of panic and confusion, the Chapman community was given the all clear to resume normal activities. Thankfully, no one was hurt during this incident, but many were shaken up. As if finals week was not stressful enough!

In the days following this scary incident, The Panther, the Chapman University Newspaper, published several articles highlighting a need for increased transparency between the university Public Safety and the Chapman community, as well as a call for refined, campus-wide safety procedures.

Many students openly expressed disapproval of how Public Safety handled the situation. In an article published in The Panther, several Chapman students explained that they felt the Panther Alert updates were “too vague”. One student, Demi Nance, mentioned that she felt that it was “important for Public Safety to educate students on what they should do during these types of situations”. Many students wondered why they were not properly trained on how to react in lock-down situations.

In response to low satisfaction rate, Public Safety has taken steps to be better prepared for active shooter situations. In fact, in January, nine Public Safety officers teamed up with the Orange Police Department to participate in a practice shooter drill. Chief of Public Safety, Randy Burba, also sent out Panther Alerts during the drill to test the system. Additionally, Public Safety has recently hired twenty-one Library Liaisons, all of whom have been trained on evacuation and emergency procedure, to patrol the library during open hours.

Student Government Association (SGA) and the Chapman Administration have also joined in the effort to increase safety procedure awareness. SGA is in the works of creating a “Chapman-centric” active shooter training video. They plan to work with Public Safety to create this training guide. According to an article published in The Panther last month, the video is slated to be completed in time for new student orientation in August. In conjunction, the Chapman Administration hosted an active shooter preparedness presentation, which was open to all students and faculty.

For Chapman University students seeking more information on safety procedure, there are several resources available on the Chapman University Public Safety webpage. Additionally, there are emergency guidebooks in every classroom on campus.