

# Swatting Preparedness Guide for College Students & Organizations

## 1. What is Swatting?

Swatting is the act of making a false report to law enforcement (e.g., an active shooter, hostage situation, or bomb threat) to provoke an emergency response. These hoaxes are dangerous, disruptive, and traumatizing. While most swatting cases do not result in physical harm, they can cause serious stress, reputational damage, and disruption to student life.

## 2. Why College Students Should Care

- High visibility: Students and organizations with social media presence are more likely to be targeted.
- Event risks: Parties, bid day, philanthropy events, or protests may attract unwanted attention.
- Community safety: A false emergency call puts students, law enforcement, and first responders at risk.

## 3. Prevention & Risk Reduction

### For Individual Students

- Limit personal information online: Avoid posting your residence hall, apartment, or class schedule publicly.
- Use privacy settings: Set social media to private and remove old personal details.
- Secure your digital accounts: Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) for email, social media, and student portals.
- Be aware of harassment online: If you are being doxxed, stalked, or harassed, report it to campus police before it escalates.

### For Student Organizations

- Be cautious with event promotion: Share addresses and private event locations through secure channels, not open social media.
- Review communication plans: Officers should know how to quickly reach members in an emergency.
- Maintain an updated roster: Accurate member contact information allows for quick communication and accountability.
- Coordinate with campus police: If your org is being harassed or targeted online, give advance notice to university security.
- Notify your national/international organization and advisors with an update as needed.

# Swatting Preparedness Guide (continued)

## 4. How to Respond During a Swatting Incident

### If Law Enforcement Arrives

- Stay calm and follow instructions. Officers must assume the threat is real until confirmed otherwise.
- Do not argue. Even if you suspect it's a swatting attempt, let authorities secure the scene.
- Keep hands visible. Avoid sudden movements.
- Communicate only when it is safe. Officers will ask questions once they secure the area.

### If You Receive the Threat

- Do not dismiss it. Call 911 or campus police immediately.
- Save all evidence. Screenshots of texts, social media posts, emails, or voicemails can help an investigation.
- Inform leadership. Notify your RA, chapter president, or event coordinator if the threat is tied to a group activity.

## 5. After the Incident

- Report and debrief. If asked, meet with campus police and student affairs to review what happened.
- Support your community. A swatting experience can be frightening — counseling services may be helpful.
- Document the event. Keep a record of the date, time, and actions taken for internal and university records.
- Review safety plans. Make changes based on lessons learned.

## 6. Key Contacts to Know

- Campus Police / Security: Emergency and non-emergency numbers.
- Dean of Students / Student Affairs: For student organization concerns.
- IT or Cybersecurity Office: For online harassment or doxxing reports.
- Counseling Services: For mental health support post-incident.
- National/International Headquarters and advisors contact information.

For more information, visit our website [HERE](#) and scroll down to the Active Shooter Resources section.

All our resources can be found at [www.holmesmurphyfraternal.com](http://www.holmesmurphyfraternal.com)