

**TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

- Call 9-1-1
- NOVA Police at 703-764-5000
- Use the LiveSafe App [www.LiveSafeMobile.com](http://www.LiveSafeMobile.com)
- Or press the Panic Button located on all NOVA College desk phones

**SAFETY PREPARATION**

Your ability to react effectively during an emergency takes preparation. The Office of Emergency Management and Safety wants you to be prepared. To start, you should know the locations of: the two safest and most direct evacuation routes (see posted evacuation route signs in classrooms), the locations of designated Assembly Areas outside the facility, shelter-in-place areas for a severe weather event, and the nearest automated external defibrillators (AEDs). For additional emergency preparedness information, visit the Office of Emergency Management and Safety website at [www.nvcc.edu/emergency](http://www.nvcc.edu/emergency).

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

In the event of an emergency, you may be notified by various means depending on the emergency. Some of the ways you may be notified include:

- text messaging through **NOVA Alert**.
  - **NOVA Alert** is a free notification service. You are automatically signed up for email alerts through your VCCS email address and any cell phone number you provide the College at the time you registered. To add an additional cell phone number or email account, you must register them by going to <http://alert.nvcc.edu>.
- classroom telephones
- computer pop-ups
- digital flat panels
- social media through <https://www.facebook.com/NOVACommunityCollege> and <https://twitter.com/novacommcollege>,

NOVA uses some or all notification channels to notify you. For a complete list, visit the NOVA website at <http://www.nvcc.edu> and search for Alert Notification Systems.

**FIRE: Evacuate**

- Activate the nearest fire alarm and call 9–1–1 if possible. If there are no fire alarms, knock on doors and yell “fire” as you exit the building.
- Evacuate the building. Do not use elevators!
- Feel closed doors with the back of your hand. Do not open if doors are hot.
- Move well away from the building when evacuating. Assemble at designated assembly areas.
- Do not re-enter the building until cleared by authorized personnel.

**SEVERE WEATHER: SHELTER-IN-PLACE**

If the area is under a Tornado **WARNING**, or if notified to shelter:

- Seek shelter immediately in a Severe Weather Shelter Area or go to an interior hallway or room; the lowest level in the building; and/or an area free of windows or glass.
- Protect your body from flying debris with any available furniture or sturdy equipment.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- Wait for the “All Clear” before leaving your shelter area.

**ACTIVE VIOLENCE INCIDENT**

In the crucial early moments of an active violence incident, your actions matter. Having a plan will help you respond quickly and effectively. Call 911 when safe to do so. NOVA’s recommended response strategy:

- **Avoid:** Your first option should always be to get away. Know your exits, including alternate ones like windows or fire escapes. Leave your belongings behind and move to a safe location.
- **Deny:** If escape is not possible, secure your location. Lock doors, turn off lights, and stay out of sight. Barricade the entrance if possible.
- **Defend:** As a last resort, be prepared to fight back. Use improvised weapons, yell, and do whatever is necessary to stop the attacker. Your survival may depend on it.

**Closing/Class Cancellations**

If the College is closed or delayed for any reason, the decision will be announced on the home page of the NOVA website. News of college-wide closures or delays may also be found on local radio and TV stations. The home page of the College’s website will always have the most reliable and up-to-date information about closures or delays. Please familiarize yourself with the College closure Color Code System at [Color Coded Closure](http://www.nvcc.edu/emergency)