

## Risk Management Report: Campus Safety

### BACKGROUND

The Executive, Audit, and Governance Committee annually reviews with university leadership the top risks that may impact Oregon State University's ability to meet its mission and objectives. Each of the identified top risks is assigned to the various board committees based on alignment with each committee's charter and workload. Through this process, the university identified Campus Safety as a top risk for the university. The Finance and Administration Committee was recently assigned oversight of the university's action plan for mitigating this risk to better reflect the reporting lines and risk owners.

The Campus Safety enterprise risk management goal is to support a safe and welcoming environment throughout OSU. The Campus Safety report focuses on the Department of Public Safety programs and highlight efforts to improve preparation and recovery plans for hazards such as an active threat, severe illness, earthquake, or inclement weather events.

### STATUS UPDATE

The safety of the OSU community is a top priority, as reflected in the university's 2023 identification of campus safety as an enterprise risk, when it was selected for tracking through updates to the board. The university has worked diligently to mitigate risk with the goal of providing a safe physical environment and a high state of readiness for response to threats and emergencies. This report outlines the major goals of the Department of Public Safety and outlines three objectives to achieve those goals, as well as planned actions that will be taken and how DPS will measure these objectives.

The Department of Public Safety supports the mission and strategic plan of the university by contributing to a safe and welcoming environment at OSU through the efforts of its staff, its programs, and the preparation and recovery plans that are in place for hazards such as an active threat, severe illness outbreak, earthquake, or inclement weather events.

### DPS Risk Mitigation Objectives

**Accreditation.** The first objective is to continue building a fully accredited police department serving the Corvallis campus and demonstrating OSU's commitment to the highest professional standards of campus law enforcement and public safety services.

DPS has continued efforts to fully staff the department and currently has employed 11 of 13 total police officers. This reflects the healthy growth of staffing leading to better training both external to the university through Oregon's State Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) and internal to DPS.

Additionally, DPS has established and implemented comprehensive policies and procedures. DPS uses a policy management system called Lexipol, which provides policy manuals, training bulletins, and learning management for public safety agencies. Lexipol policies are regarded as best practices and provide a foundation for the accreditation process.

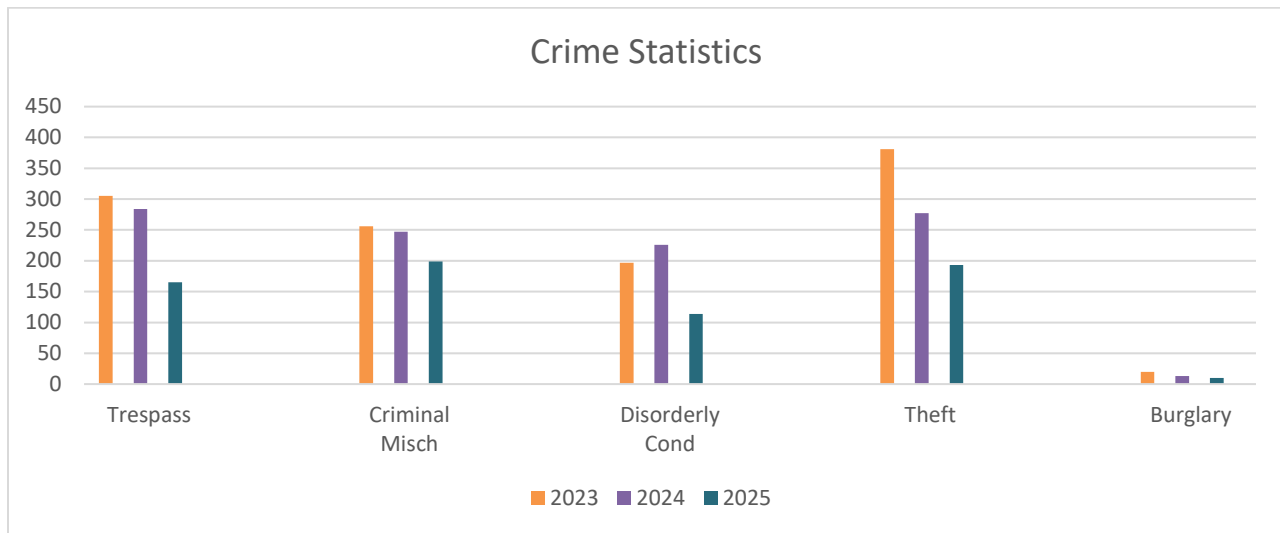
The Department of Public Safety currently has a contract with the Northwest Accreditation Alliance (NWAA) to begin the accreditation process and plans to achieve accreditation in 2026. NWAA is a body that offers law enforcement and public safety accreditation in the states of Oregon and Alaska. NWAA is one of two accreditation bodies recognized by the Oregon Department of Public

**Safety Standards and Training.** They are more Oregon focused. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) is more focused nationally. Their purpose is to evaluate agencies on whether they have best practices in place for public safety, including in use of force, impartial policing, and evidence handling. Chief Yon is an active board member with NWA.

**Community Engagement and Effective Communication.** The department’s second objective is to communicate and engage effectively with the OSU community regarding public safety incidents, public safety actions, and public safety policy and procedures.

DPS has a public access point for viewing DPS policies via the department website, [publicsafety.oregonstate.edu](https://publicsafety.oregonstate.edu). All DPS policies are now available online. DPS worked with campus partners to review and publish communication principles for public safety messaging. These principles help provide a basis for consistent and clear messaging to the OSU community. Furthermore, following community input about DPS's web presence, DPS restructured its website to make finding information more intuitive and to provide a place to find published safety notices and timely warnings.

DPS continues to review incidents across the nation and compare practices between universities, looking at training, assessments of timely warnings, and safety notices. To help the OSU community provide important feedback, DPS provides a web-accessible survey that allows for community feedback on public safety practices and communications. The DPS website also hosts an online interactive data dashboard to help the community see the activity of DPS, crime rates on campus, and facilitate decisions about safety on campus. Additionally, to help the campus community better prepare for emergencies, DPS plans to continue to provide resources and training to assist with understanding the complexity of incidents on campus and facilitate decisions surrounding implementing training and prevention programs.



The Department of Public Safety is committed to the implementation of a new Public Safety Engagement Committee (PSEC) and leveraging the assistance of other campus partners to help put the committee in place. DPS expects the selection process to occur before the end of the spring term with the first training and meetings taking place in 2026. We will discuss a variety of topics including policy, procedures, engagement, and many others. We look forward to this group bringing their perspective to provide excellent feedback for future DPS endeavors.

**Refining OSU's Emergency Operations Plans.** The Department of Public Safety's third objective is to continue the work of maintaining and refining the university Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). DPS continues to review and manage the university's EOP and EOP annexes (sub-plans specific to different types of emergencies).

The university's EOP is available to the campus community on the DPS Emergency Management website, and it is also sent annually to all OSU email accounts along with other important safety information. DPS continues to communicate emergency procedures via websites, training, and annual security reporting. DPS also provides in-person active threat training to the campus community; it also reviewed and communicated the presence of the online active threat eLearning module available to all campus community members.

Over 4,400 students and employees received emergency management training, presentations or drills, an increase from FY24 of 1,175 participants. DPS led emergency plan development and implementation through updating 114 unit-level EOPs, OSU's top-level emergency plans, and planning for youth programs reunification. To assist with emergency communications and alerts, DPS is in the process of integrating OSU into the Federal Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to enhance OSU's emergency alert capabilities. This would be above and beyond our current OSU Alert system that we have been using for many years. This system became available to OSU after adding law enforcement services to campus. This system, once operational, will allow DPS to send emergency alerts to areas of campus and beyond, including all of Benton County if needed as well as cell phone users who may be visiting OSU and not registered with OSU alerts.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The Finance and Administration Committee will engage in a discussion about this Campus Safety risk report at the October 23, 2025, meeting. Campus Safety will continue to be monitored at the enterprise risk management level through the 2025 calendar year.