Sept. 25, 2020

**MUPD warns public to be aware of sexual assault predators**

Contact: Christian Basi, 573-882-4430, BasiC@missouri.edu

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Over the past month, the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX at the University of Missouri has received two reports of individuals suspecting that their drinks may have been drugged. The MU Police Department has been made aware of the reports and is investigating the incidents.

“Safety is our top priority at the university, and we want to make sure our community has all the information possible to keep themselves safe,” MU Police Chief Brian Weimer said. “Communities across the country are seeing a recent rise in the number of people being drugged while at social events with alcohol.”

While someone who is drugged might not be able to identify the problem, some symptoms include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Feeling very drunk after consuming very little, or no, alcohol.
- Having sudden nausea
- Experiencing sudden body temperature change, sometimes accompanied by sweating or chattering teeth.
- Becoming dizzy, being disoriented or having blurred vision.
- Waking up with no memory or a spotty memory of recent events.

While individuals can do everything correctly and still be a victim of a crime, here are some tips to reduce the chances of being drugged:

- Always get your own beverage or food and watch them being made or opened.
- Never leave your beverage unattended. This is for both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.
- Keep your hand covering over your beverage when not looking at it.
- Get help immediately if you begin to feel dizzy, nauseated, light-headed or strange in any way.
- Stay with friends and create a buddy system to prevent getting separated from your group for an extended period of time.
- Arrange for a safe way of getting home, including a trusted friend, STRIPES or a taxi if available. The MU Police Department is available to provide safety escorts on campus 24-hours a day. Call 573-882-7201 to ask for an escort. (These escorts are on campus only, are not vehicle escorts and are provided by an unarmed security office who will walk individuals to their destination.)
- Consider taking a R.A.D. Basic Self Defense class through MUPD.

Other crime prevention tips can be found on the [MUPD website](#). Individuals who have been assaulted have several options and resources from the [RSVP Center](#), [True North](#), and the [Office for Civil Rights and Title IX](#). If an individual chooses a police investigation of this crime, MUPD will investigate, provide support and offer related services.

Additionally, if you are the victim of a crime or sexual harassment, assault or discrimination, please make a report to the MUPD or the Office for Civil Rights and Title IX.