



**Media Release** – Sept. 25, 2019

Contact: Sara Diedrich, Public Safety Information Specialist  
[diedrichs@missouri.edu](mailto:diedrichs@missouri.edu)  
Office 573-882-3243

## **2019 Annual Fire Safety and Security Report shows a drop in violent crimes, liquor law referrals**

*Report contains three years of crime statistics related to incidents that occurred at the University of Missouri*

The University of Missouri Police Department saw a decline in violent crime, including rapes and robberies, last year while liquor law referrals dropped substantially for the second year in a row.

According to the 2019 Annual Fire Safety and Security Report, the number of reported rapes dropped nearly in half last year at MU, down from 17 in 2017 to 10 last year. Robberies fell from three in 2017 to no reported robberies in 2018.

There also was a drop in stalking from 49 cases in 2017 to 29 last year.

MUPD Chief Doug Schwandt said his department embraces the community policing model that hinges on strong partnerships with other campus departments that have a critical role in fostering campus safety, such as the Department of Residential Life and Office for Civil Rights & Title IX.

“We are always working to strengthen those alliances so that we can solve challenges together as a campus community,” he said.

Referrals for disciplinary action due to liquor law violations declined significantly, from 800 referrals in 2016 to 196 in 2018. At the same time, there was an increase in alcohol arrests over last year from 216 in 2017 to 233 in 2018.

MUPD responded to an increased number of motor vehicle thefts in 2018 — 18 total with one unfounded report. Most thefts were of mopeds and motorized scooters. Investigators solved about half of those thefts through the arrest of one individual. There were 12 motor vehicle thefts in 2017 and four in 2016.

Gary Ward, vice chancellor for Operations, said MU staff have been focused on improving the Mizzou experience for every member of the campus community through educational programming and accessible resources.

“Safety is a top priority at Mizzou,” Ward said. “It is important that we foster a community where everyone feels safe and welcome. We strive to maintain the highest quality public safety services.”

The annual fire safety and security report contains three years of crime statistics related to incidents that occurred on the MU campus, in certain off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by MU, and on public property immediately adjacent to campus. The report includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as those regarding sexual assault, alcohol and drugs.

The MU Police Department suggests the following tips to minimize the risk of being a victim of a crime:

- Have a companion or a safe means of getting home, i.e., a trusted friend, taxi or STRIPES if available. The MU Police Department is available to provide safety escorts on campus 24 hours a day. Call 573-882-7201. These escorts are not vehicle escorts and are provided by an unarmed Security Officer who will walk with individuals to their destinations.
- Consider taking a [self-defense class](#) through MUPD.
- Mizzou now offers [Rave Guardian](#), which turns any smartphone into a personal safety device.
- Other crime prevention tips can be found on the [MUPD website](#).

Each year, MU publishes the safety and security report, which covers the previous academic year and contains valuable information about safety measure and crime statistics at Mizzou. The report is released in compliance with provisions of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act.