

## Emergency Notification and Timely Warnings: Sorting Out the Differences

### Emergency Notification

**Scope:** Wide focus on any significant emergency or dangerous situation (may include Clery crimes).

**Why:** Emergency notification is triggered by an event that is currently occurring on or imminently threatening the campus. Initiate emergency notification procedures for **any significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees** occurring on the campus.

**Where:** Applies to situations that occur on your campus.

**When:** Initiate procedures immediately upon confirmation that a dangerous situation or emergency exists or threatens.

### Timely Warning

**Scope:** Narrow focus on Clery crimes.

**Why:** Timely warnings are triggered by crimes that have already occurred but represent an ongoing threat. Issue a timely warning for any **Clery crime** committed on your Clery geography that is reported to your campus security authorities or a local law enforcement agency and is considered by the institution to represent a serious or continuing threat to students and employees.

**Where:** Applies to crimes that occur anywhere on your Clery geography.

**When:** Issue a warning as soon as the pertinent information is available.

The law specifies that “an institution that follows its emergency notification procedures is not required to issue a timely warning based on the same circumstances; however, the institution must provide adequate follow-up information to the community as needed.”

Consider the following scenarios and whether a timely warning is warranted.

#### **Figure 13. Sample Scenarios Regarding Emergency Notification and the Timely Warning**

**Scenario 1:** In a single night there are several random arsons in unoccupied classrooms and basements of buildings on campus. Upon confirmation that there is an arsonist on campus, you follow your emergency notification procedures. There is no need to issue a timely warning for the arsons as well. As soon as it’s available, disseminate pertinent follow-up information to the campus community.

**Scenario 2:** An employee spots an armed intruder in a classroom building. The employee alerts a campus police officer who is present in the building and who confirms the situation. Following your emergency notification procedures, the officer alerts the campus police chief who initiates campus-wide emergency notification procedures. In the course of trying to apprehend the intruder, the intruder shoots and wounds two people trying to flee the building. Although emergency notification procedures were initiated, the circumstances have changed, and you must issue a timely warning for the shootings (i.e., the crimes of aggravated assault).