# LIVING IN South County

A guide for URI students living Off-Campus.



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THE UNIVERSITY of rhode island division of student affairs

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THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

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# About Our office



The Commuter Affairs Office is here to assist commuter students. When referring to commuter students, we serve both students who commute from home, and students who choose to live offcampus in communities, including, but not limited to: Charlestown, Narragansett, North Kingstown, South Kingstown and Wakefield.

Whether you are searching for a place to live, trying to find a roommate or making general inquiries about living off-campus, we are here to help you!

### **Our Mission**

The Commuter Affairs Office is committed to supporting the holistic development of offcampus and commuter students. The office seeks to provide resources to educate students as they navigate their journey living off-campus, and to engage students within and beyond the larger campus community.

The office provides services such as online Off– Campus Housing Database, a Roommate Database, and the comfortable Commuter Lounge in the Memorial Union. You can find us in Adams Hall, Lower Level. Call 401.874.2828 or visit our website: <u>uri.edu/commuter-housing/</u>

This guide is designed to help you make the transition from living at home or living on-campus in the Residence Halls to living off-campus on your own.

### **Commuter Cornerstones**

- We respect our neighbors and treat them as we would want our own parents and families to be treated.
- We value neighborliness and strive to be helpful and conscious of how our neighbor's way
  of life may differ from our own.
- We work to prevent our neighbors from prejudging us and help them to see us as individuals.
- We value good communication and peaceful problem resolution.
- We value our freedom and understand that we are accountable for our actions.
- We cooperate with local authorities to create a safer community with a high quality of life.
- We expect the same rights and respect that all residents of the community enjoy.

- Created by Commuter Students

# Finding Off-Campus Housing



### Where to look

The Commuter Affairs Office is here to help you in your search for off-campus housing. Here are some of the resources available:



#### **Housing Database**

Explore off-campus rentals from local landlords and property mangers.

- All properties are posted by landlords looking to rent to URI students
- Rental photos and amenities information
- Most rentals are within 10-15 minutes of driving distance
- A limited number of rentals located on or near campus, within walking distance
   To access the database, visit our website: <u>uri.edu/commuter-housing</u>



#### **Housing Fairs**

Off-Campus housing fairs are typically held twice per academic year, once in the Fall Semester and again in the Spring Semester. They are a great opportunity to meet local landlords directly. A face-to-face conversation is often more effective than an email or phone call.

Check out our website for updated housing fair dates and information: uri.edu/commuter-housing/events

Students looking for roommates or wanting

to sublet their rental can use the roommate

Visit our website to access the roommate

database: uri.edu/commuter-housing



#### **Local Realtors**

Some landlords have a realtor or rental agency manage their rental on their behalf.

Check out our website for a list of rental agencies that URI students commonly use: <u>uri.edu/commuter-housing/resources</u>

### What can you afford?

One of the most important factors in determining where to live should be the cost of the rental. When signing a lease, you are making a financial commitment to pay for the rental for the period of the lease, plus related costs like utilities. Failing to make payments could result in:

- Eviction from the rental property
- Civil lawsuit
- Unwanted contact from a debt collection agency

There are resources on our website to help you with Off-Campus Budgeting, including a sample spreadsheet: <u>uri.edu/commuter-housing/information-for-students</u>

### Beware of rental listing scams

database.

When using our online services or any other rental listing site, it is important to be wary of potential rental listing scams. Information on rental listing scams is available on the Federal Trade Commission's website: consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0079-rental-listing-scams

**Roommate Database** 

### Disclaimer

The Off-Campus Database helps to connect students to local landlords and is not involved in the transaction between students and landlords. URI operates the site as a service and does not own, approve nor verify properties/landlords listed on this site.

# Off-Campus To-do List

Things to consider before moving in



### 1. Develop a budget

Determine your budget and remember to factor in other expenses like food and gas. The sample budget spreadsheet on our website can help get you started.

### 2. Find roommates

Decide who you want to live with. Use our online roommate database or reach out to classmates via social media (e.g., Facebook class pages). You can also contact landlords about vacant rooms in existing rentals.

### 3. Find housing: Contact landlords/ rental agencies

Take a look at our website for rental listings. It is recommended to reach out to multiple landlords for availability, which gives you options when deciding where to live.

### 4. Create a roommate agreement



Set ground rules before you move in. Decide how other expenses like utilities are divided. Our website has a sample roommate agreement.

### 5. Inspect the property



Before you move in, walk through the property with your landlord to protect your security deposit and damage liability. Our website has a sample condition checklist.

### 6. Find transportation



- Purchase a campus parking permit
- Carpool
- Take the Bus
- Walk/bicycle

Visit the Transportation and Parking website for more information: uri.edu/transportation

### 7. Plan for meals



Commuter meal plans are available for students who want the option of eating at on-campus dining facilities. Consider grocery shopping, meal prep and/or meal plans in your budget and daily routine.

### 8. Be prepared for emergencies



### 9. Be a good neighbor

Meet your neighbors. Check out our website for a list of important local ordinances. Remember that the student code of conduct applies to students living off-campus.

### **10. Get involved**



### What is a lease?

When you rent a single room, an apartment, or a house, you will be signing a lease with your landlord. This is a written agreement between the renter (student) and the landlord. Sample leases are available in the Commuter Affairs Office of on our website <u>uri.edu/commuter-housing/files/lease.pdf</u>.

Leases provide the most protection under the law entitled "Residential Landlord and Tenant Act" for your rights as a renter and the landlord's rights as the property owner. You can see the specifics of the law in Chapter 18 of Title 34 in the General Laws of Rhode Island, or on our website.

### What's covered in a lease?

- Move-in and move-out dates
- Cost of rent
- When and how to pay rent
- Security deposit
- Number of people (tenants) allowed to live in the house or apartment
- Who pays utilities (water, gas, electric, cable etc.)
- Pets (Most landlords do not allow pets)
- How/if the lease can be terminated

It's important to read your lease thoroughly before signing and make sure each signer has a copy. If there are items in the lease that make you uncomfortable, discuss them with your landlord before signing the lease. All lease changes should be in writing. This protects both parties equally from unjust treatment. Keep your lease posted on the back of your front door in the event you are asked to present it.

### Regulation over rental properties

Leases are to also be written and up to date especially regarding town ordinances. The local towns and cities that surround URI have ordinances in place to protect landlords, tenants and the residents of these towns.

For more information regarding laws that a lease should abide by, look on your town's website for their code of ordinances.

State laws can be found here: <u>https://www.courts.ri.gov/</u> <u>Courts/districtcourt/PDF/Handbook.pdf</u>

### Who pays the rent?

Everyone who signs the lease is responsible for paying the entire amount, even in the event that a roommate moves out. As well, this holds true for other bills such as paying for utilities or cable. For the protection of all parties, students should have a separate agreement among roommates that delineates each person's responsibilities (see sample roommate agreement, page 8)

### Setting up cable & internet

If not included, you should consider your options for cable and internet. There are options in terms of channels, Wi-Fi strength, etc. that range in price and come from different providers. Make sure to ask a lot of questions. To decide what provider to go with (Cox, Verizon, etc.) you should check with your landlord on what they may have previously used because it will make installation simpler. Your rental may not be compatible with some providers.

### Setting up utilities

If you are responsible for utilities according to your lease, you should set up your utilities before you move in. Find out from your landlord if the house is natural gas or oil. Once you have this information you should call National Grid (**Electric**: 1-800-322-3223, **Gas**: 1-800-870-1664). Be sure to discuss with your roommates ahead of time on how you will make payments. This can be included in the roommate agreement we have provided. If your rental is oil you should ask the landlord what company they have previously used or find a local company in your area

### Waste disposal & recycling

Most towns have weekly waste and recycling pickup. However in some areas, you will need to pay to have pickup on the curb.

Recycling in Rhode Island is single-steam: <u>https://</u> www.rirrc.org/recycling-composting-disposal/what-torecycle-in-your-bin-cart



# URI COMMUTER AFFAIRS

### Can I get out of the lease?

Most leases will not let you terminate early. However, some landlords may permit you to terminate a lease with a 30-day notice. A lease is a legal contract. If a tenant fails to live up to the terms of the lease, they may be responsible for all of the unpaid rent remaining on the lease. You may also be responsible for legal and court fees. Again, be sure to read the lease and do not sign it unless you can fulfill its terms.

### What does subletting mean?

Subletting refers to finding someone else to live in your place and to sign the lease for the time you are not present. For example, some students may take a semester away to study abroad, but they still have an active lease. Students may be able to sublet their house/apartment. Students should refer to their lease and consult with their landlord regarding subletting possibilities.

### What if something breaks in the home?

The landlord is responsible for repairing the damage that is due to normal wear and tear. This includes major structural damage such as plumbing, heating or electrical systems that should be repaired immediately. If something is in violation of the Housing Code, the landlord should also fix it immediately. On the other hand, you are responsible for repairs/broken items that are not normal wear and tear. Make sure you check the wording of the lease, ask questions, and write them on the lease as well. If you have an issue you believe to be a health or safety concern and your landlord has not addressed the issue, you should contact the Building Inspector's Office in your town.

### Getting back your security deposit

If there are damages in excess of normal wear and tear, the landlord may deduct money from your security deposit for the cost of repairs. When you move in, fill out an Initial Condition Checklist and take detailed pictures of the house and send them to yourself and the landlord by mail or email within five days. By completing the checklist and taking pictures, you will have a record of the conditions in existence as of the time you moved in. if possible, complete the list with your landlord and have them sign it; all tenants should sign the checklist as well. In addition, if there is any outstanding rent due after you move out, that amount may also be deducted from your deposit. The landlord has twenty (20) days from the lease's termination date to refund your deposit if there is no damage.

# What if that landlord does not return your security deposit?

If the landlord does claim damages they must provide you with a written, itemized account of those damages and the cost to repair them. If the landlord does not comply, you as the tenant may recover the amount due to you, along with damages in an amount equal to twice the amount wrongfully withheld as wells as reasonable attorney's fees. For more information refer to the State of Rhode Island law: <u>http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/</u> BillText16/HouseText16/H7399.pdf

### Landlord's responsibilities

The Rhode Island Minimum Housing Code requires a landlord to keep their property in a "fit and habitable condition." Essentially, all major repairs are the landlord's responsibility. Most minor repairs and cleanliness are the responsibility of the tenant(s). If you would like to read up on the law, refer to the Rhode Island General Law 45-24.3. All out-of-state landlords are required by law to maintain an instate Rhode Island agent. If the landlord fails to comply, rent for the facility stops. Read Section 34 -18-22.3 of the Rhode Island Statutes for more information.

### I am having trouble with my landlord. Where can I get help?

Legal guidelines for tenants and landlords in Rhode Island can be found at <u>https://www.courts.ri.gov/Courts/</u> <u>districtcourt/PDF/Handbook.pdf</u> or on the resource page of our website. There you can find the Landlord Tenant Handbook for the state of Rhode Island.

If you have a Fair Housing Rights question, contact the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights at <u>http://</u> www.richr.state.ri.us/

# Commuting & Parking

### Parking On-Campus

Parking in any URI lot requires a parking permit. Permits can be ordered online and are registered to your license plate. Transportation and Parking uses vehicles equipped with license plate scanners to verify permits. Parking without a permit will likely result in a ticket and/or your vehicle being towed at your expense.

You can order parking permits from Transportation and Parking's website: <u>uri.edu/transportation</u>

### Parking Off-Campus

Local towns and cities may have parking regulations in regards to parking on streets. Check with your city/town if you are unsure and always look for posted parking signage. Here are some example of local regulations in our surrounding communities:

#### **Bonnet Shores**

There is a year-round parking ban on roads to provide adequate room for emergency vehicles.

#### Eastward Look

There is a year-round parking ban in effect from 10 PM to 6 AM. Narragansett Police will tow vehicles that are in violation of parking rules.

#### **Briggs Farm**

There is a year-round parking ban in effect from 10 PM to 5 AM. Narragansett Police will ticket and tow vehicles that are in violation of the parking rules. Also, please note that the Briggs Farm community and beach area, located at the end of Clearwater Drive, is a private/members only facility for the exclusive use of homeowners. Renters are not entitled to use these facilities which are frequently patrolled.

### Airport access

The Providence/T.F. Green Airport (PVD) is about a 30 minute drive from the Kingston Campus. You can also use RIPTA bus line 66, a taxi, or mobile ridesharing apps like Uber or Lyft.





### **Rhody Shuttle**

Transportation and Parking operates a Campus Shuttle Service on weekdays while classes are in session. There is a shuttle line that services lot 25, the largest parking lot for students with commuter permits. You can track the shuttles in Realtime using the **TransLoc Rider** app, available for iOS and Android.

### Take the Bus

The Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA) has bus lines serving the URI community. The bus stop is located outside of the Memorial Union. Students who do not bring cars to campus can request a free RIPTA U-Pass to get unlimited access to RIPTA buses.

Schedules and services information can be accessed from RIPTA's website or the **Transit** app for iOS and Android.

- Line 62 URI/Providence—ripta.com/62
- Line 66 URI/Galilee—ripta.com/66



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TransLoc Rider App URI shuttle schedules

Transit App RIPTA bus schedules

# Fire Safety



### Smoke detectors

State law requires smoke detectors are installed and regularly checked for proper function. If you are renting a house, have your landlord install them. One smoke detector should be located on each level of the house. Homes built prior to June 1976 may use battery-operated smoke detectors. Homes built from June 1976 to September 1992 must maintain ALL installed hardwired smoke detectors. Houses built September 1992 to present must maintain hardwired with battery back-up smoke detectors. Remember to test the batteries once a month. You may contact the Narragansett Fire Department at 401-789-1000 or South Kingstown Fire Department at 401-789-9331 if you have any questions or concerns regarding your smoke detectors or fire safety.

### Carbon monoxide detectors

All houses should have a functioning carbon monoxide detector and it should be tested periodically. If you find that your house does not have a carbon monoxide detector, or if it is not functioning properly, please consult your landlord to have correct the issue.

### Dangerous appliances and wiring

Remember to turn off hotplates, irons, toaster ovens and other appliances that produce heat. Do not overload electrical outlets. Use power strips with built-in circuit breakers. Don't try to fix frayed or cut wires. Do not run extension cords under rugs as this could cause a fire.

### **Preventing fires**

Many fires start in the kitchen. Do not leave cooking unattended. If a fire starts, turn the burner off and put a lid on the pan to smolder the flames. Regular cleaning can help prevent grease fires. Also, cigarettes cause many fires. Do not smoke in bed. Use large, fireproof ashtrays, and pour water on cigarette butts before disposing.

### Know your escape routes

Know how to get out of every room in your house in case of an emergency. Establish a meeting place outside the house for all roommates so you will know if everyone is safe.

### During an emergency

- Leave the house immediately if possible
- Once you are outside, stay outside. Do not risk your life by going inside after personal belongings
- Call 911 from a safe place
- Remember to check all doors before opening them. If the handle is hot, not do open it.
- If all of your escape routes are blocked and you are stuck inside the house, jam a rug or towel under the nearest door to keep the smoke out.
- Stay low where you can breathe fresh air

### **Emergency Contacts**

During an active off-campus emergency, dial 911.

Narragansett		
Police	401.789.1091	
Fire/Rescue	401.789.1000	
South Kingstown		
Police/Rescue/Water Dept	401.783.3321	
Kingston Fire	401.789.8354	
North Kingstown		
Police	401.294.3311	
Fire/Rescue	401.294.3346	
Utilities		
National Grid—Power Outages	800.456.1212	
National Grid—Customer Service	800.322.3223	
National Grid—Gas Emergencies	800.640.1595	
Poison Control	800.222.1222	
RI State Police (Emergency Calls)	401.444.1000	
South County Hospital	401.782.8010	
AIDS Hotline	401.222.2320	
Cocaine Hotline	888.978.3685	
Substance Abuse Prevention	401.874.2098	
URI Counseling Center	401.874.2288	
Sexual Assault & Trauma Center	401.421.4100	
Women's Resource Center	401.782.3995	

# Winter Safety



#### Welcome to winter wonderland

If you are not familiar with the New England winter, there is some information you should read with on this page. Driving in snow can pose additional risks, make sure to drive slow and carefully, even if your vehicle is equipped with 4-wheel drive or snow tires.

### Parking bans

If you park on the street, it is likely that you will have to move your car before a snowstorm so plows can clear the streets. During a major storm, some localities may request residents to stay at home, only allowing plows and emergency vehicles on the roads.

URI may impose parking bans, which could include Commuter lots, when a storm is approaching to make snow removal easier. Make sure to watch your email inbox for information about parking bans

### Before leaving for winter break

- Leave your heat on at least 62 degrees so the pipes do not freeze
- If you have outside faucets, make sure all hoses are disconnected from the outside faucet
- Make sure faucets are running just a drip to assure pipes from freezing and/or bursting in the dwelling
- Make sure your fuel tank is full
- If you have holiday decorations up (i.e., trees, wreaths, lights, etc.) be sure to take them down and take proper precautions against fire
- Notify your owner if the house will be vacant for several days
- Take proper precautions to secure house (i.e., make sure all windows and doors are locked. Winter vacation is the time people attempt to break in!). We suggest you put timers on lights and TV/radio or leave several lights on. Also, your belongings are not covered under the owner's insurance policy – take valuables home or purchase renter's insurance. Unplug TV's and computers in case of a power surge
- Stop any mail subscriptions you have delivered to your house
- Don't forget to pay your rent and any utility bills before you leave
- Remove all perishable items from refrigerators and take out all garbage.
- Make friends with your neighbors, so they can keep a lookout on your house



### Signing up for URI Alerts

The University of Rhode Island uses an emergency notification system, that allows news and instructions to be sent quickly to all members of the University community in the event of an emergency. Be sure to keep your contact information current for the URI Emergency Alert System. This is how the University will notify you of cancellations, delays, and other important information.

To enroll or update contact information for URI Alerts, follow these steps:

- 1. Login to eCampus (uri.edu/ecampus)
- 2. If you do not remember your campus ID or password, contact the URI Helpdesk at 401.874.4357
- After logging in, select the "URI Emergency Alert System" option for the main menu to access the alert system preferences.

### Local emergency alerts

It is also a good idea to sign up for emergency alerts in the town you are living in. Review your towns website to check if they have their own emergency alert program. Some towns also share alerts via social media. You can follow them enable post notifications to make sure you see alerts right away.

# Preparing for an Emergency



### First 72 Hours

In most cases of weather emergencies, it is commonplace to begin last-minute preparations 72 hours before the event takes place. It is during this time that people should stock up on groceries, batteries, etc. in case the power goes out or you are prevented from being able to leave your home.

- Food: begin by buying the absolute necessities, and rely on buying non-perishable items in case the power goes out and you find yourself unable to refrigerate items. Some suggestions include: canned soup, bread, peanut butter, etc
- Water: water is an absolute necessity, not only for drinking but also for cooking. If you find yourself in a position where you don't have access to drinkable water, it's important to have a stockpile of bottled/sealed water which you can use safely
- First Aid Supplies: Bandages, disinfectants, and medications should all be stockpiled
- Miscellaneous items including: rechargeable phone chargers, flashlight (with extra batteries,) fire extinguisher, blankets, heavy clothing, money, tools, generator, gas powered cooking appliances, etc
- Also, make sure to charge all of your portable electronics before the storm, this will enable you to call emergency services if needed and receive updates on the weather and/or hazardous conditions

### **Mid Storm**

While the storm is raging, it is important to stay up to date with announcements made by local officials via television and through the internet. Stay inside your home, and wait out the storm unless instructed to evacuate. In the case of an emergency, call 911 immediately. It is also good to avoid windows in case a piece of debris happens to strike a window and shatter the glass. Unplug your expensive appliances and electronics, if a power line goes down you do not want them being short circuited by a power surge. If you find that all of your electronics have died, try and find a radio to stay up with updates from local agencies.



### Post Storm

Once your local authorities have announced that it is safe to go outside, you are free to leave your home and inspect the damages around your property. You should contact your landlord or property manager to notify them of any damages.

Always avoid downed power lines. Board up any broken windows to protect your security, then make a plan to make the necessary repairs. If you rely on natural gas at your home, check to make sure that none of the gas lines are damaged or broken. If you find that there is damage to one of these lines, inform your landlord and call your utility company to schedule repairs.

While making these temporary repairs, make an expense report to show your landlord how much money you spent. Also, **catalog all damages**, no matter how big or small, to ensure you do not lose your security deposit.

### Additional resources

During an emergency, listen to advice and instructions from law enforcement and other government agencies. Always evacuate if you are ordered to. Evacuation maps and more information can be found online:

- RIEMA—<u>riema.ri.gov</u>
- FEMA—<u>ready.gov</u>

# Being a Good Neighbor





### **Neighborhood Associations**

Some developments have neighborhood associations (e.g., Bonnet Shores, Briggs Farm, Eastward Look, Point Judith). Consider becoming involved in the association. Remember that you are a part of the community as well. Building trust with your neighbors and being involved shows you care about what happens in your neighborhood. Additionally, your neighbors may be more inclined to reach out to you about a problem rather than calling the police. For more information, ask your landlord if there is a neighborhood association in your area.

### Narragansett 2100

Narragansett 2100's mission is to promote improved communications and community relations among Narragansett landlords, tenants and the neighboring public to maintain and improve the quality of life in the community. If you would like to get involved, email office@narragansett2100.com or check our their website: https://narragansett2100.com/

### Volunteer Opportunities in South County

Become involved with your community to enhance your experiences as a student and member of the local and Greater Rhode Island community. For ways to get involved, please visit: <u>https://web.uri.edu/career/volunteering-civicengagement/</u>

### Ways to be a good neighbor

Students who decide to live off-campus remain an integral part of the University of Rhode Island and are choosing to become part of a larger community in South County. Narragansett. As a member of these communities, you will interact with people from many different backgrounds and lifestyles. Values, attitudes, respect, consideration and tolerance become extremely important. Your new neighbors will include families, senior citizens and students like yourself, all with different daily routines. As a result, cooperation and respect are needed to ensure an enjoyable living experience for everyone.

- Get to know your neighbors. Introduce yourself as soon as possible
- When you are having a party, inform your neighbors. Give them your phone number so they can call you directly if they are being disturbed.
- Attend neighborhood association meetings so you can learn about activities and resources within your community. Keep your guests under control
- Make your landlord aware of any problems with the facilities. Prompt attention to maintenance can avert many problems
- Become aware of any local ordinances that may be in effect
- Report crimes to the local police.

### Littering

If you are lucky enough to live in one of South County's beautiful beach communities, anytime you litter, your trash is likely to wind up in or near the ocean, endangering local wildlife. Please respect your neighborhood and the environment and do not litter.

If you receive mail, such as a newspaper, on a regular basis, please be sure to pick it up daily from your driveway and stop delivery while you are away for breaks .

### Parties & Alcohol Poisoning





### Parties and Social Gatherings

Remember, you are responsible for the behavior of your guests at your parties. Those that manage their parties well have few, if any, problems. Loud party complaints can result in fines up to \$500 and/or one year in jail. Here are some planning tips to help prevent complaints, fines, and arrests:

- Notify your neighbors in advance about the party, including the start and end ties, and the number of people expected
- Noise and litter outside can make things seem "out of control." Keep people inside and away from the street
- Do not open your party to people passing by your house. This is how irresponsible people can ruin your event. If uninvited guests do not leave call the police
- Be familiar with parking regulations in your neighborhood. Cars parked on the street may be towed
- Lower the bass on amplifiers. Bass vibrations often annoy neighbors more than the actual music
- Clean up right after the party so your neighbors do not wake up to a mess.
- If alcohol is being served, designate which guests are of legal drinking age, and make sure all guests are safe. It is illegal for people under 21 to consume or possess alcohol. <u>DO NOT LET ANYONE UNDER THE INFLUENCE DRIVE</u> <u>HOME.</u>
- Be sure to abide by town codes and ordinances (i.e., "Noise" and "Permit to Possess Kegs Required")

### Deck warning

When having friends over, do not let a crowd congregate on a deck. In years past, some decks have collapsed when overcrowded with students. Broken bones and other injuries have resulted.

### What to do if the police come

- 1. Go talk to them!
- 2. If they tell you to turn the music down, do it right away

Noise complaints will keep the police coming back!

3. If they tell you to end the party, do it immediately

If you need help breaking up a party, call the police!

### Know the symptoms of alcohol poisoning

- Person is unconscious of semiconscious
- Person cannot be awakened
- Person has cold, clammy, pale or bluish skin
- Breaking is slow or irregular
- Person us unconscious and breaking is less than 10-12 times a minute or ten seconds or more between breaths
- Person vomits while sleeping or passes out

If a person is suffering from any of these acute alcohol poisoning symptoms, they may be at risk of dying or suffering severe brain damage without immediate medial attention.

### Call for help!

If someone is experiencing the symptoms listed above, or you believe that they have alcohol poisoning, call for help:

- 1. If off-campus call 911, on campus call 401.874.2121 or use a blue light telephone
- Don't leave the individual alone. Turn the person on their side to prevent choking or vomiting. Continue to monitor breathing
- 3. Do not try to help the person "walk it off" or "sleep it off"
- 4. If the person is unable to walk or is vomiting, they need medical attention
- 5. Do not try to give them food, coffee or a shower
- 6. Put your focus on your friend's health, not on keeping them out of trouble

### Medical Amnesty Policy

As stated in the Student Handbook: "Actions taken to preserve life and/or safety of students in emergency situations shall not expose students to Student Conduct charges regarding alcohol or drug consumption if that student's role in the situation is to call for help or emergency services."

Please see the student handbook for the most up to date information on this policy: <u>uri.edu/studentconduct/handbook</u>



## Town Ordinances & State Laws



### What are local ordinances?

Most towns and cities have ordinances in place to administer their localities, such as the following services: zoning, snow removal, parking bans and trash pickup. However, many people are unaware that there are also ordinances with fines regulating activities such as:

- Loud or excessive noise
- Public consumption of alcohol
- Littering
- Public urination
- Trespassing

### Penalties for violation

Violation of ordinances varies based on the town and the violation, generally it is no more than a \$500 fine and/or community service hours. However, violation of many of these ordinances could also be a violation of local, state and/or federal laws, which could result in civil and/or criminal action.

# Finding information on your town's ordinances

Most towns will have their ordinances posted on their website, if not you can contact your town hall to request a copy.

The Commuter Affairs website also has a list of important ordinances in the towns that most commuter students live. You can view them at: <u>uri.edu/commuter-housing/information</u> <u>-for-students/know-your-ordinances</u>

### Rhode Island Landlord-Tenant Handbook

The Rhode Island Landlord-Tenant Handbook contains Rhode Island laws that apply to rental properties within the state. You can view an updated copy of this document on our website: <u>uri.edu/commuter-housing/resources</u>

### **Off-Campus Jurisdiction Policy**

The actions of URI students may be subject to the University Conduct System, regardless of whether incidents occurred on university property.

Please see the student handbook for the most up to date information on this policy: <u>uri.edu/studentconduct/handbook</u>

### **Common Violations**

The actions listed in the following infographic are common violations that may be subject to university jurisdiction:



### Need assistance?

If you or your roommate experience any problems, get help as soon as you need it. For University of Rhode Island assistance contact:

Health Services	401.874.2246
Counseling Center	401.874.2288
Commuter Affairs	401.874.2828
Substance Abuse Prevention	401.874.2098
Dean of Students Office	401.874.2098
University Police-Emergency Calls	401.874.2121
University Police-Non Emergency	401.874.4910

### THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Commuter Affairs, Dean of Students Office

Phone: 401.874.2828 Email: cho@etal.uri.edu Office: Adams Hall, Lower Level Web: uri.edu/commuter-housing

The University of Rhode Island prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation, and discrimination against disabled and Vietnam era veterans.

For inquiries, please contact the Office of Affirmative Action, Room 201, Carlotti Administration Building, 401-874-2442.