



Spring Break Safety

Safety tips to consider:

If you plan on drinking or doing drugs as part of your spring break experience, consider the following:

- **Plan ahead on how much you plan to drink.** Talk with a friend about when the friend should intervene and make a plan for how you will return to your hotel. Stay with someone who knows you when you are drinking — don't wander off alone. **Make sure someone in your group is not drinking or is drinking responsibly so they can get everyone home safely.**
- **Don't assume that someone you've just met will look out for your best interests.** Keep in mind that more people are sexually assaulted by acquaintances than by strangers. **There have been many, many deaths, rapes and assaults during college spring break...don't become another victim.**

Perpetrators/Abusers: You will go to jail and prison! Rapist Shawn Wuerley was sentenced on 3/14/09 to **30 years in prison for the 2008 rape and torture** of an 18 year old Tuscaloosa, Alabama spring breaker. He attempted to kill her as he threw her from the 6th floor of a hotel balcony...she survived to testify and prosecute her abuser. **The murderer of a Panama City Beach Police Officer in 2005 was sentenced to death!** If you rape, injure, assault or murder someone you will be prosecuted to the furthest extent of the law!

- **Beware: Only accept drinks from a licensed bartender** or drinks that you pour yourself. You put yourself at risk for receiving an altered beverage if you don't know the source of the drink. This is the number one form of drug or alcohol induced rape or gang rape is from altered drinks.
- **There have been numerous deaths** from pedestrian (drunk drivers kill pedestrians), balcony accidents/falls, murders and swimming (from rip currents and alcohol related).
- **If a friend feels sick**, don't leave them alone. If you feel sick, ask someone to look out for you.
- **If a member of your group passes out**, turn them on their side to prevent choking and call 911 immediately.
- **People Have Died:** Don't horseplay or climb on balconies. Never sit on railings and always keep both feet on the floor at all times. Falls from balconies, even those on lower floors, can be fatal.
- **Obey the Flag System:** Flag warnings at the beach must be obeyed. Many swimming deaths have occurred-especially while drinking alcohol as your senses and abilities are impaired.

The families and citizens of Panama City Beach care for your safety and well being... be smart and vigilant during your time here on our beaches. We pray for your safety.