# Demonstrations / ProtestsUniversity of Washington Environmental Health & Safety logo

Demonstrations and protests are common at universities. Most are a peaceful attempts to raise awareness of a particular issue. Occasionally demonstrations begin peacefully and then turn violent resulting in property damage and personal injury.

*The University provides the following instructions to help UW personnel, students and visitors prepare for responding to an emergency on the Seattle campus. University units and departments can modify these instructions for their specific location(s) and add them to their Fire Safety and Evacuation Plans.*

Below are some guidelines on how to respond and react to demonstrations.

## Interacting with Demonstrators

* Do not provoke, obstruct, or get into verbal altercations with the demonstrators.
* Move away from potentially dangerous areas if a demonstration is becoming violent.

## Maintaining Security

* When you leave your office or lab always **close and lock doors.**
* **Do not allow others to follow you** into secured areas.
* **If necessary, have the building coordinator/facility manager secure your building or area:**
  + Lock exterior doors.
  + Reprogram your campus automated access management system (CAAMS).
* For scheduled demonstrations on the Seattle campus, **contact University Police Department** (206-685-8973) if you feel you will need **additional security.**

## When to Call 9-1-1:

* If there is a **disruption to teaching, research, or work**
* If demonstrators **obstruct sidewalks or doorways**
* If you feel **threatened or passers-by are being harassed**
* If you **see suspicious, criminal or destructive activity**
* If **violence appears imminent or has erupted**