

## ***Cheering On Your Team— Safely and Legally***

### **THE UMASS AMHERST POLICE**

hope this pamphlet will help you safely celebrate before, during, and after sporting events. The damage that irresponsible celebrating does to UMass Amherst's reputation may not have a price tag, but it does have consequences. The public associates destructive behavior with every student on campus—everyone from the senior seeking a job to students looking for summer work or internships. By celebrating in ways that are fun, safe, and respectful of property, you can do much to assure that you earn your degree and go on to realize your long-term plans.



# **Safe Celebrations**



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UMassAmherst

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## ACCEPTABLE FAN BEHAVIOR

### ***Where should I go to celebrate?***

The safest places are your own residence, some other private residence to which you've been invited, or the Blue Wall or any other public establishment designed to host sports celebrations. If you do go outside, celebrate on public property so long as you neither violate the law nor obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

### ***What can I do to celebrate?***

You can sing, cheer, and enjoy other responsible forms of celebrating. You can participate in activities that are legal and that do not disturb the comfort and peace of others in their homes or residence halls. Avoid violating anyone's constitutional rights or property and you'll be celebrating lawfully. But your right to celebrate ends where the rights of others and the law begin.

### ***How can I protect myself and others?***

Stay out of roadways. Do not commit any crimes, throw any objects, or climb on anything or anyone to get a better view. Listen and obey if the police, either personally or by public address announcement, tell you to move along or to leave the area. If a police officer tells you or those you are with to disperse, you are required to obey. If you fail to do so you are subject to the same police interventions, arrests, and penalties levied against others who disobey police commands.

### ***What behaviors incite crowds and lead to police intervention?***

- Climbing trees, lamp poles, signs, or anything else to get above a crowd and draw attention to oneself.
- Blocking access or safe passage by persons, objects, or vehicles.
- Removing clothes to draw attention to oneself.
- Committing, in the presence of others, any illegal behavior, including but not limited to setting fires, disorderly conduct, malicious destruction of property, intentionally disobeying police announcements and orders, or throwing potentially injurious items at or near others.

### ***What should I do if I unwittingly find myself in the middle of an unlawful assembly?***

Follow all directions given over the police loudspeaker and immediately leave the area. Assist friends who are also leaving. Comply with any orders given by a police officer. Most crowds gravitate toward the middle of open areas, so head for the perimeter to find your way out.

### ***How should I approach an officer for help during a disturbance?***

Be non-threatening, state your reason for approaching, and don't become argumentative.

### ***How should I respond to a dispersal order?***

If some students begin engaging in unlawful, crowd-inciting activity, police will give a clear dispersal order and allow students adequate time to return to their residence halls. Students should follow any directions given by the police over the loudspeaker and immediately leave the area. Once a dispersal order is given, there is no such thing as "just standing around and watching."

### ***What if I can't get back into my residence hall?***

If police barriers or disorderly behavior keep you from returning to your room, wait at the Curry Hicks Cage, above Garber Field, which will be open and staffed after major sporting events. Wait inside until you get word that access to your residence hall has been restored.

## VOICES OF REGRET

"Participating in the riot cost me a semester's worth of grades. I was put on probation, given random drug and alcohol testing and, worst of all, suspended from school for a year. If I could go back in time I never would have gone outside that night."

—M.L., Class of 2010,  
who would have been in the class of 2009  
had he not been suspended for a year

"Going outside that night was one of the worst decisions I could have made, and to this day my friends and I are still dealing with the consequences of that night."

—L.S., Class of 2009,  
arrested for taking part in a  
destructive celebratory disturbance

**Avoid living with regrets: please celebrate safely!**