

Dear (Student/Parent/Family/Friend),

Last Saturday night, an incident occurred at a University of Utah residential hall where a reportedly intoxicated student attempted to enter what he thought was his friend's suite door. The student's threats to the women inside the suite and the ensuing interactions with University Police raised initial reports of an active shooter in the building. After briefing President Taylor Randall, he has asked us to follow up with those impacted.

The threatening student has been referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for discipline. While University Police subdued the suspect within eight minutes and went door-to-door to ensure each resident's safety, we know the resulting fear and anguish of those moments of uncertainty may stay with the students, parents and staff involved for a long time.

A statement about the incident was not issued to other student residents until 5 p.m. on Sunday. The delay in communication has understandably caused concerns about student safety, and we've heard from residents, as well as their loved ones. We want to sincerely apologize for that communication delay.

We recognize that the safety of students is on the minds of parents, family, and friends — especially those who don't have the luxury of living nearby. Please know that we have learned from this incident that a lack of prompt information from official university resources can create a void for other information to fill. We have immediately implemented changes to improve our methods for real-time communication within Housing and Residential Education (HRE) for both resident advisors and residents for emergency situations in the future. We have also learned that in an attempt to quell any unnecessary panic, our subsequent messaging about the incomplete information that filled this void has minimized the experience of the students who were directly traumatized by the disruption. We have listened to the 911 call and understand how frightening this was to the residents being threatened.

University Safety victim advocates are working with the victim-survivors in this case, and we urge anyone impacted by the incident to reach out to victim advocates at the [Center for Student Wellness](#) and at [University Safety](#). The University of Utah's comprehensive student support resources, including [mental health services](#), also are available to any of the impacted residents.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with additional questions or concerns as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Lori McDonald
Vice President for Student Affairs

Keith Squires
Chief Safety Officer