



Safety Reminders

WEEKLY UPDATE - Sept. 26

#### Our office wants to make sure that your educational journey in the U.S. is safe and

healthy, allowing you the space to learn and grow. That's why this week we're focusing on some important safety reminders for international students. As always, please **reach out to our office** if you have any questions or concerns. **Tips for Recognizing Fraud and Scams** 

International students and visitors can be targets of crimes because they are less

give money under false pretenses (a lie). It can also be called fraud. The most

### familiar with the area. These incidents are random, and with some knowledge and awareness, can often be avoided. A scam is when a person or persons try to get you to

A U.S. law enforcement agency (police, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, etc.)

- The IRS (U.S. tax department)
  A company offering a job
- A person offering an apartment or housing
- Someone on social media who you do not know (including WeChat, Facebook,
- LinkedIn, etc.)
- If you ever have any questions or concerns about the communication you receive, get the caller's name and contact details, then call or email ISSS. We can assist students in

identifying potential scams and responding to any legitimate communication from a U.S. government official.

Learn more about safety and scams on the ISSS website »

At USF, the Department of Public Safety ensures a safe learning, working, and

Public Safety

## living environment at the University of San Francisco. Their office provides information on **crime prevention and tips for staying safe.** Public Safety suggests

keeping phones and valuables out of sight, and avoiding wearing headphones when walking around. Being aware and vigilant allows you to pick up on subtle signals that warn you to be cautious and be able to react quickly. Stay safe and trust your instincts! Learn more about ways to stay safe on their website »

Safety During Fire Season

It is common in California for there to be wildfires in the fall (September–November) when the ground and plants are dry and before the rainy season begins. During this

#### time there may also be emergency power outages, where the power company shuts off

prepare for a power outage.

power to prevent the spread of wildfires. Taking the following steps will help you be prepared for a wildfire-related power outage.
Sign-up for alerts: For those in Northern California, sign up with PG&E to get an alert notification for a planned power outage in your neighborhood. If you are a PG&E account holder (pay a bill to PG&E), log into your account to sign up for alerts. If you do not have a PG&E account, you can sign up for an alert based

and view the power outage map. Check out PG&E's PSPS non-English resources »
Prepare for a power outage: Power outages can last a few hours or a few days. Make sure you have one or more flashlights for a power outage. You will also want food that does not require refrigeration. One way to keep your fridge cold is to freeze ice packs or gallon-size plastic jugs of water. When your power goes out you can put these frozen items in your fridge to keep them cool. Extra batteries, or a solar power pack, are also good to have on hand. Read more about how to

on your zip code. You can also check the status of power in your neighborhood

help save energy and prevent the need for an outage.

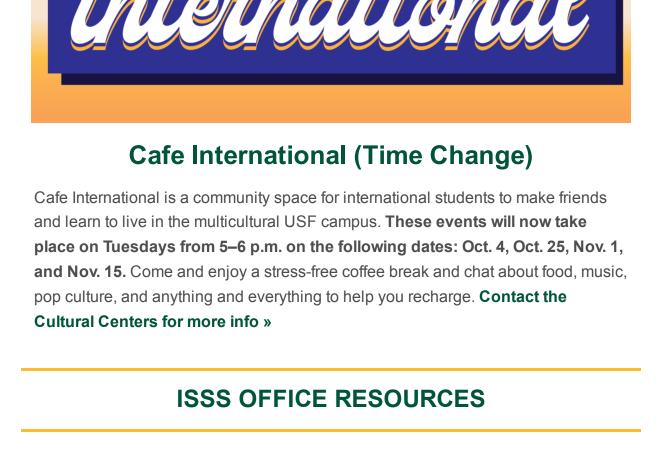
• Review USF's Air Quality & Wildfire Policy: Based on the events and review of processes following the 2018 Camp Fire, USF developed detailed protocols that have been implemented as of the fall of 2021. Campus Resilience monitors all area wildfires and wildfire smoke that may impact the Hilltop campus and

campuses at all other locations. USF will use Air Quality Index (AQI) used by the Environmental Protection Agency for reporting and forecasting. **Learn more** »

• Conserve power: It is important during this time to conserve energy. This page will tell you why the power company plans an outage and what you can do to

an incident, where you may not be able to go out or perform your routine activities, a plan can help you navigate it and protect yourself.

ISSS encourages students to have an **emergency plan** and be prepared in case of a disaster. Being prepared can help you feel calmer during a power outage and if there is



## through the **MyISSS student portal** (select the home icon, site home and then requests on the left hand menu). You can view our **MyISSS Student Handbook** for assistance with your

Requesting a Document from ISSS?

Adviser Appointments and Workshops

Appointments can be made online. Please visit the ISSS website to schedule an appointment. Appointments are still booked in 15-minute increments. To schedule a workshop, select workshops from the first menu option in our scheduler. Students must complete an OPT workshop

If you are requesting an immigration document or letter from our office, remember that we

request **ten business days** to process requests. Make sure you plan accordingly so you have enough time to receive your document before you need it. All ISSS requests should be submitted

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before applying for OPT.



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