



## CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG

*Police Department*

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### **Public Safety Information for Tour Guides**

As a licensed tour guide in the City of Williamsburg, it is important to be familiar with basic safety information. The following list is not all inclusive, but will be helpful as you guide groups through the historic district.

- In the event of an emergency, dial 911 for police, fire, and/or rescue. For non-emergency communication, you can reach the York-Poquoson-Williamsburg Emergency Communication Center at 757-220-2331.
- When calling for assistance, it is important to know your general location. Major roadways in and around the restored area are noted on maps available from the City and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Please be familiar with major cross streets in the event of an emergency (Duke of Gloucester and its cross streets Henry, Nassau, Botetourt)
- The Commonwealth of Virginia has specific laws governing the safe crossing of pedestrians on public roadways. Pedestrians are required to cross at intersections and use crosswalks when available. You are encouraged to use the utmost caution when taking your tour group across roadways used by vehicular traffic.
- Busses that travel into the area will load and unload passengers at Francis Street and Court Street in the designated areas, and Nassau St. between Newport Ave and Francis St. Waller St. is closed to tour busses between Lafayette St. and Francis St. Nassau St. is closed to tour busses between Francis St and Scotland St. Parking, idling, standing, loading and unloading on Francis St. is strongly discouraged. Tour busses can park at the Visitor Center Group Tour Lot, but are encouraged to park at the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) facility while groups are in the Historic Area. WATA features a driver's lounge and motor coach parking. A map and driving directions can be located at: <https://gowata.org/148/Routes-Schedules>
- CW busses that travel into the restored area will unload passengers at Waller St. near the Capitol, on Nassau St near the Dewitt Wallace Museum, or on Prince George St. between Nassau St. and Henry St. Parking, idling, standing, loading, and unloading on Francis St. is strongly discouraged. Tour busses are encouraged to park at the Visitors Center while groups are in the Historic Area.
- Licensed tour guides should be familiar with public vs private property issues. It is unlawful for any person without authority of law to go upon or remain upon the property of another after being forbidden to do so either orally or in writing (Virginia Code Section 18.2-119). Tour guides must be familiar with privately owned property within the Historic Area. Special attention must be given to areas that are posted as restricted areas.

The grounds around Powder Magazine, the Courthouse, and the Palace Green are traditional thoroughfares for all visitors. Likewise, roadways and adjacent sidewalks are available for public use. Guides should check with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation at 757-220-7375 regarding the status of any paths or walkways that may be in question. Guides must remember that when a private property owner requests that they leave the property, they must comply.

- All licensed tour guides must be familiar with the Williamsburg City Ordinance governing tour guide licensing. It is very important that the licensed tour guides wear their license in plain view when conducting tours.