



SafeZone
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PRESS RELEASE

University of Central Arkansas Selects CriticalArc's SafeZone® to Strengthen Campus Safety, Wellness, and Mass Communications

University of Central Arkansas's deployment of SafeZone will modernize emergency communications, enable highly targeted alerts across the campus community, and connect UCA to the global SafeZone Alliance network.

CONWAY, ARKANSAS, May 19, 2026 – [CriticalArc](#) today announced that the [University of Central Arkansas](#) (UCA) has selected the [SafeZone](#) platform to support campus-wide safety, wellness, and mass communications initiatives for its community of more than 10,000 students and approximately 2,500 faculty and staff.

UCA will deploy SafeZone across its Conway campus as part of an initiative led by **Chief of Police John Merguie** and **Deputy Chief Chris Bentley** to modernize campus safety operations and enhance emergency communications capabilities. The university is replacing its existing AppArmor platform with SafeZone to gain a more flexible and scalable solution that can better support evolving campus needs.

The SafeZone platform will provide UCA with enhanced mass communications capabilities while also supporting broader wellness and safety initiatives across the institution. UCA also plans to leverage the [SafeZone Alliance](#) network, enabling stronger connections and coordination with the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and other participating institutions across the globe.

“Universities today need technology partners that are responsive, innovative, and committed to long-term success,” said **Chief John Merguie, Chief of Police at the University of Central Arkansas**. “SafeZone gives us a comprehensive, unified platform that can scale with our needs while improving how we communicate with and support our campus community during both everyday operations and critical incidents.”

SafeZone’s configurable platform enables institutions to streamline emergency response coordination, improve situational awareness, and deliver targeted communications during emergencies and operational events. The platform’s flexibility was a key factor in UCA’s decision-making process, particularly as the university sought a solution capable of supporting highly segmented and targeted communications across different user groups within its campus community.

“At UCA, the safety and wellness of our students, faculty, and staff remains a top institutional priority,” said **Amy Whitehead, Chief of Staff to the President at the University of Central Arkansas**. “SafeZone provides a modern, flexible platform that strengthens how we communicate with and support our campus community while helping us continue to foster an environment where students can thrive.”

The university has already developed an impressively granular communications structure within its campus community, allowing administrators to strategically target alerts, operational messages, and wellness communications to specific audiences based on their roles and needs.

In addition to campus-wide communications and wellness initiatives, UCA also plans to support traveling students through collaboration with the university’s Travel Director, helping extend duty-of-care support beyond campus boundaries.

UCA selected CriticalArc’s SafeZone solution not only for the platform’s capabilities, but also for its collaborative and customer-focused approach to supporting higher education institutions.

“UCA was looking for a solution that could deliver exceptional customer service alongside a highly adaptable technology platform,” said **Anne Cynamon, Vice President Higher Education at CriticalArc**. “We’re proud to partner with the University of Central Arkansas to

help strengthen safety, wellness, and communications across campus. Their strategic approach to targeted communications and community engagement stood out immediately.”

UCA was first introduced to SafeZone through **Jason Goodrich, Director of Global Consultancy at CriticalArc**, who had previously worked with university police leadership and recognized the platform’s potential to support the institution’s evolving approach to campus safety and wellbeing.

“Having worked alongside campus public safety leaders for many years, it was immediately clear that SafeZone aligned with UCA’s vision for a more connected and responsive safety strategy,” said **Jason Goodrich, Director of Global Consultancy at CriticalArc and former U.S. campus police chief**. “Their leadership team understood the importance of combining effective mass communications, wellness support, and targeted engagement tools within a platform that can evolve alongside the changing needs of a university community.”

The implementation reflects a growing trend among higher education institutions seeking modern, integrated approaches to campus safety that combine emergency communications, wellbeing support, and operational coordination into a single platform.

SafeZone is used by leading universities, healthcare organizations, and enterprises worldwide to improve safety outcomes, enhance communications, and provide faster access to assistance when needed.

For more information on CriticalArc and SafeZone go to criticalarc.com or email marketing@criticalarc.com.

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About the University of Central Arkansas

Founded in 1907 in Conway, Arkansas, the [University of Central Arkansas](#) (UCA) is dedicated to academic excellence, integrity, and diversity. UCA fosters student development through innovative learning and community engagement, preparing graduates for diverse, global environments.

About CriticalArc

CriticalArc provides [SafeZone®](#), the unified safety, security and emergency management solution that helps large organizations keep their people safe and respond more effectively to critical incidents so they can fulfill their duty of care and mitigate risks. SafeZone fundamentally transforms the ability to manage personal safety, security, and emergency situations so organizations can respond faster and more effectively to protect their most important asset, their people. Through real-time visualization, communications, and response coordination, SafeZone streamlines operations, is easy to use and quick to deploy. For more information on CriticalArc and SafeZone, please go to criticalarc.com, email marketing@criticalarc.com or call +1-800-985-9402.

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