



THINKING AHEAD ABOUT...

FIRE SAFETY

Fire is one of the leading factors of loss in many fraternity and sorority organizations. Candles, bonfires, and cigarettes may be harmless at first but can quickly turn into a disaster and even death. Simple prevention measures are often what it takes to decreasing the risk of costly fires.

FIVE FACTS ABOUT FRATERNITY/SORORITY FIRES

1. Fires in fraternity/sorority houses are five times more costly on average than those that occur in dormitories.
2. Arson is the leading cause of fraternity/sorority house fires; open flame is the next leading cause, with candles playing a major role.
3. Fires in fraternity/sorority houses peak when the college or university is in session. Fires also peak on weekends.
4. There has never been a fatality due to fires in collegiate student housing that is sprinkled.
5. Smoke alarms operate nearly twice as often in fraternity/sorority house fires than in all residential structures.

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR RESIDENCE SAFE

- Prohibit Candles
- Prohibit smoking in the house
- If you choose to allow smoking in a designated area outside the house, provide a safe receptacle for the disposal of smoking materials
- Don't overload electrical outlets
- Be clear with residents about acceptable appliances and power cords
- Prohibit space heaters
- Regularly clean lint traps and exhaust vents of laundry dryers
- Make sure that grills and fire pits are located a safe distance from the house
- Prohibit upholstered furniture on porches
- Store combustible materials safely and appropriately
- Hold regular fire drills
- Ensure that exit signs and emergency lights are visible and working
- Train residents on the operation of fire extinguishers
- Appropriately discipline those who cause false fire alarms
- Make sure that smoke alarms are not disabled
- Adequately maintain alarm and sprinkler systems
- Ensure that fire doors are used properly



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RISK MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Chapter houses should meet all local fire and health codes and standards.
- Chapters should post in public locations emergency numbers for fire, police and ambulance and should have posted evacuation routes on the back of the door of each sleeping room.
- Chapters should comply with engineering recommendations as reported by the insurance company or municipal authorities.
- The possession and/or use of firearms or explosive devices of any kind within the confines and premises of the chapter house is expressly forbidden.
- Candles should not be used in chapter houses or individual rooms except under controlled circumstances such as initiation.

Holmes Murphy offers this educational information to provoke thought and discussion and it should not be viewed as a mandate or requirement.

We view part of our role as an insurance and risk management professional to anticipate your needs and educate you in an effort to complement the organization's loss prevention and control efforts, not replace the decision-making autonomy of our client organizations. We hope you find this educational piece to be of value and stand ready to discuss it further with you or any of your constituents.

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