



THINKING AHEAD ABOUT... **FALLING FROM HEIGHTS**

Falls from heights are a significant problem in fraternal properties. A number of catastrophic incidents have occurred in recent years when students have fallen off balconies, roofs, fire escapes and out of windows of fraternity/sorority properties. In some of the cases fatalities have resulted. Nearly 80% of the incidents involved alcohol, while over 80% were on chapter property.

As such, we strongly recommend against allowing members access to these things unless it is an emergency situation such as a fire.

Other steps can be taken as well:

- Address egress issues with Fire Department and meet the minimum required by code.
- Establish House Corporation standards that need to be met to obtain recognition and coverage under the Fraternity's liability insurance policies.
 - Standardized Housing Agreement and Lease Structure
 - Proof of Compliance with IRS not - for - profit requirements (990)
 - Functioning Board
- 3rd party inspection completed at least on biennially basis.
- Prohibit social functions on decks and balconies.
- Make sure that bunk beds and lofts are placed away from windows.
- Put window guards on windows to prevent them from opening too far.
- Make sure windows and screens are in good repair.
- Block roof access and assign consequences if students violate this rule.

