

# FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

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## Collegiate Officer Resource WebPages

So, you're new to the Office of Risk Reduction Chairman and you don't know where to begin. Or, perhaps you've been in the position for a while but feel you aren't doing enough to impact your chapter. Sigma Nu is committed to providing you with the resources necessary to do your job well.

For the first time in recent memory, these resources are provided for you in one place on the Sigma Nu website at – [http://www.sigmanu.org/programs/officer\\_resources/risk\\_reduction\\_chairman.php](http://www.sigmanu.org/programs/officer_resources/risk_reduction_chairman.php).

All chapter officers now have a dedicated section of the [Sigma Nu website](#) highlighting resources useful for his position. Of course, if you wish to see all of the resources currently available to members, visit the [“All Documents”](#) section of the website.

Check it out and tell the other officers they have a webpage too!

## New Risk Reduction Resource Available

As first reported at the 64<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter this past summer, a new resource has been developed addressing common but difficult risk management scenarios. This resource was developed per a recommendation from the 2009 High Council subcommittee on Alcohol Abuse and Misuse. The “We Have a Situation” resource is your go-to guide for addressing many of the alcohol-related situations your chapter may face this year. You can find this new resource by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions or issues that are not addressed in the “We Have A Situation” resource, please contact your Leadership Consultant or Fred Dobry, Director of Risk Reduction, at [fred.dobry@sigmanu.org](mailto:fred.dobry@sigmanu.org).



## Lead The Fight Against Hazing

Is your chapter looking for an opportunity to make a difference on campus? Do you have brothers who can lend a leading voice toward a common cause? Chances are you do, but rarely does an opportunity arise to have such an impact. Thankfully, National Hazing Prevention Week provides that opportunity. During the days of September 20 – 24, 2010, Sigma Nu chapters around the country will have a chance to lead their campus in the fight against hazing!

National Hazing Prevention Week can be a great way to increase awareness on your campus and provides an opportunity to unify your community and coordinate with others. Many campuses sponsor National Hazing Prevention Week and organize various activities to educate and train the community on how to recognize and eliminate hazing. Visit [www.hazingprevention.org](http://www.hazingprevention.org) for more information. *(continued on page 2)*

# Fall Chapter House Maintenance Checklist

As unbelievable as it may sound, another academic year is already upon us. And with that, the chapter must get operations back up and running. A necessary part of that process is reopening the chapter house. In most cases, the chapter facility sits empty or with minimal tenants over the summer. Therefore, there can be several “surprises” when the chapter arrives in the fall semester.

The following are several steps the chapter should take to properly prepare the chapter house for full residency once again and, hopefully, avoid some of those “surprises”:

1. Schedule an inspection by the local Fire Marshal and correct any identified deficiencies.
2. Schedule an inspection by a local building code official and correct any identified deficiencies.
3. Ensure each member has signed an updated lease and paid their security deposit BEFORE allowing them to move-in.
4. Distribute a copy of the chapter house policies (e.g. no smoking in the house, penalties for not completing house cleaning duties, etc.) and ensure these policies are regularly reviewed with all chapter members. It is recommended that you have each chapter member sign a form confirming he understands and will comply with the chapter house policies as well.
5. Have each resident detail any issues with their room (e.g. holes in drywall, electric outlets not working, window issues, etc.).
6. Set up all utility services (i.e. gas, electric, cable, internet, etc.). Check that internet equipment is updated and each resident room has access to high-speed internet.
7. Develop and finalize a house cleaning schedule involving all chapter members and ensure there is a sufficient supply of cleaning supplies. The House Manager should verify with the chapter Treasurer that money has been allocated for the purchase of cleaning supplies over the academic year.
8. Set up a meeting with the House Corporation, or other appropriate entity, to discuss budget, property insurance coverage, and any deficiencies identified in house inspections.

Many if not all of the above items should be conducted in tandem with your local housing authority (House Corporation, landlord, Residence Hall Association, etc.). This list is meant to be a starting point for your fall chapter house maintenance. Close communication with your House Corporation is essential to ensuring the chapter facility is properly prepared for full residency. So, if you haven't done so already, give your House Corporation President or other appropriate advisor a call and discuss what needs to be done to get the house ready for another successful and safe academic year!

## National Hazing Prevention Week *(continued from page 1)*

So how can your chapter get involved? First, see if your campus is planning to participate in the week. If so, ask how your chapter can contribute. Perhaps the chapter can sponsor a discussion on anti-hazing initiatives and invite faculty and administration to join. Or, facilitate the [“Different Look At Hazing”](#) workshop for members of the fraternity and sorority community. Maybe your campus has yet to become involved. If so, propose the idea to the administration and other student leaders. There is an expansive list on the [hazingprevention.org](http://hazingprevention.org) website providing ways in which campuses and organizations have become involved in previous years.

Remember, hazing is not exclusive to the Greek community, but that doesn't mean we can't lead the fight against it. Educate your chapter, get involved and make a difference!

