

FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

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National Hazing Prevention Week

Sigma Nu was founded in direct opposition to hazing. Furthermore, how does hazing align with Love, Honor, and Truth? As members of Sigma Nu, we each have an obligation to not only combat hazing in our own chapter, but throughout the greater community of which we are a part. A great opportunity for the chapter to engage their local community in a hazing prevention dialogue is [National Hazing Prevention Week](#) (September 19-23, 2011).

National Hazing Prevention Week is sponsored by [HazingPrevention.Org](#) and is designed to increase awareness about the dangers and perils of hazing. If your campus doesn't host National Hazing Prevention Week, then now is the time for your chapter to be the leader on campus and get one started! For ideas and help in getting National Hazing Prevention Week started on your campus, visit [HazingPrevention.Org](#) or email us at headquarters@sigmanu.org.

#40Answers Campaign

HazingPrevention.Org (HPO) has partnered with Sigma Nu Fraternity to organize the 2nd annual #40Answers campaign. In 2010, Sigma Nu Fraternity pioneered one of the first attempts to use crowdsourcing to engage constituents around the country in a hazing prevention discussion. This project came to be known as the #40Answers Campaign.

For each of the 40 days leading up to [National Hazing Prevention Week](#) (September 19 – 23, 2011), one commonly heard excuse for hazing will be posted by Sigma Nu's Twitter account ([@SigmaNuHQ](#)). Participating in the campaign is easy! First, follow [@SigmaNuHQ](#) or [@PreventHazing](#) (HPO's official Twitter account) to see the hazing excuse for each day. Second, post your answer to that excuse using your personal or chapter's Twitter account and include the #40Answers hashtag. Lastly, follow the conversation by searching Twitter for posts including "#40Answers".

At the conclusion of the campaign, all posted responses will be compiled into a full discussion guide. At your fingertips will be a resource showing how some of the leading hazing prevention experts and professionals, as well as college students, would respond to or defend commonly heard excuses for hazing.

The campaign is currently underway; so, get on Twitter and join the conversation!

Managing Risk At Tailgates

The fall season is an exciting time for many campuses across the nation, primarily because it is college football season. This means marching bands, touchdowns, school spirit, and of course tailgating. Across the country this fall, thousands of Sigma Nu brothers will descend upon their usual tailgating spots to enjoy themselves among fellow fans, friends, and brothers. However, all too often this amazing tradition loses its focus and becomes an event primarily geared towards one thing – drinking. Tailgating can be an activity where members of your chapter are susceptible to very serious risk behaviors. *(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 for the fall semester.

There are several steps the chapter should take to properly prepare the chapter house for full residency, including:

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. Have each resident detail any issues with their room (e.g. holes in drywall, electric outlets not working, window issues, etc.).
5. 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.
6. 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.

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!

We Have A Situation – Tailgating *(continued from page 1)*

One of the larger perils of tailgating is that most college football games start early in the afternoon, which means students who have started drinking in the early morning have not eaten. Some students even go so far as to “pre-game” for tailgating, which can sometimes result in drinking the night before or drinking all leading up to late afternoon or evening games. It's also common to see drinking games, which result in dangerous binge drinking, of some sort on many campuses. These factors alone are dangerous, but when they combine with bystander behavior there can be serious consequences for the individuals involved. So we know two things: 1) tailgating is a college tradition that is unlikely to vanish overnight and some would argue that it shouldn't for good reasons; and 2) there can be some dangerous behaviors involved with tailgating.

This wouldn't be a very good newsletter (or article for that matter) if we didn't offer some ideas and preventative measures you can take to minimize risks involved with tailgating. For starters, food is always a good idea. If tailgating is a budgeted item in your chapter, then budget appropriately for food to be around for people to eat throughout the event. Note the [Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines](#) prohibits the use of chapter funds for the purchase of alcohol. If your chapter just does not have the resources to budget for food, have everyone sign up for an item or snack to bring to the tailgate. Another great idea is to make sure there are non-alcoholic drinks available. In this past year's GreekLifeEdu summary for Sigma Nu, 1,725 respondents reported being interested in attending events that do not focus on alcohol, so make sure there's something for everybody! Lastly, perhaps one of the most important things to keep in mind for events like tailgates is that it's often very public, which means the likelihood of arrests or citations increases. Be on the lookout for individuals who may have had too much to drink and be your brother's keeper.

To learn more about mitigating risks related to tailgating, check out the [“We Have A Situation”](#) resource. And if your chapter has any best practices about effectively managing tailgates, please let us know at headquarters@sigmanu.org.