

FRATERNITY OF MEN, NOT BOYS.

Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Newsletter

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“We Have A Situation”

Did you know there is a resource on the website that advises chapters on addressing common real-life risk reduction scenarios? From tailgates to alumni traditions to pre-gaming, [“We Have a Situation”](#) will prepare you to handle each scenario when it comes up.

“We Have a Situation” explains why each scenario is problematic and how to reduce the risk. Users will also find links to related articles and other supplemental resources for minimizing risk at common chapter events.

And speaking of common risk management scenarios, Outside the Classroom recently distributed a helpful article to all individuals who have completed Part I of [GreekLifeEdu](#) discussing an increasing trend of mixing alcohol and caffeine. The article outlines the potential dangers with this trend and provides links to relevant research findings. You can view this article at http://www.outsidetheclassroom.com/upload/b-oosters/GLE1_2012.html.

Consultant Visit

It's that time of the year again when the Carriage House – consultant living quarters – becomes vacant except for the occasional pilgrimage and the 3rd Floor at Headquarters becomes a ghost town. Yes, our Leadership Consultants have hit the road to begin the spring 2012 consultations across the nation visiting over 170 active chapters and colonies. So what does that mean for our Risk Reduction Chairmen?

First, use your Consultant to educate you on the [Risk Reduction Policy & Guidelines](#) and even help answer some of your questions regarding the ins and outs of the RRP&G. Remember, you can't comply with a policy you don't know.

The leadership consultant visit is also a great time to review the chapter's Crisis Management Plan. Your leadership consultant is in a unique position to offer feedback and best practices from other chapters in his region.

Finally, ask your consultant to facilitate the All-Chapter Module C LEAD session that discusses a variety of important risk reduction topics. Guest facilitators can be a great way to inject some energy and variety into a program that may have turned stale.

How To Identify Hazing

During this academic year, the General Fraternity has found several chapters conducting candidate activities that violate Fraternity policy, law and principles. For a Fraternity founded against hazing more than 140 years ago, how can hazing still be occurring within our ranks?

One answer may be that members are having difficulty identifying what is and is not hazing. I often hear that the definition of hazing found in [The Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.](#) and the *Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines* is perceived to be unclear and members have difficulty grasping what they *can* do to educate their candidates without hazing. (continued on page 2)

Drinking Games

What are you doing tonight? Nothing? Great, well let's figure out something to do. Hey, I have an idea! I heard of this new game called Russian Roulette. Oh wait that game sounds dangerous? C'mon it only has a 1 in 6 chance of death. Don't like those odds?

It's always puzzling to discover students who can't apply conventional wisdom to drinking games. At the root of it all, drinking games are just simple binge drinking events with some fluff around the edges. Let's take the infamous "Power Hour" concept. For starters, say you're a 160 pound male. At that weight, approximately 19 drinks – we'll classify every "drink" as a 1oz shot of 80 proof alcohol – will bring you to 0.45 blood-alcohol content. At that level of a BAC you have officially reached LD50! You are now at the point in which 50% of people like you have received a lethal dose of alcohol. Your chances of fatality are now 50/50. And you still have about forty minutes left of drinking to go. Also keep in mind that just because 0.45 BAC is the LD50 point, that doesn't mean you don't have a chance of a lethal dose of alcohol at lower levels. In fact just reaching the 0.30 BAC mark means your heart has already begun to slow its rate as your memory begins to fade and heavy fatigue sets in.

So what can we do to minimize the risk of this kind of behavior? Educate the chapter on the dangers of binge-drinking. You can start by hosting [All-Chapter LEAD Module C Session 1](#) which covers alcohol abuse (completing a session from All-Chapter LEAD Module C is also a requirement for "Excellence" in Pursuit of Excellence). You can also ensure that the chapter house is not conducive to these events by removing any items that could suggest a drinking game (an example is that piece of plywood in the basement on two sawhorses).

If you get pushback for making these changes, remind your brothers that three men enrolled at VMI in 1869 didn't need a beer-pong table to have a good time and from what I hear they did all right.

(Source: <http://depts.washington.edu/mcsurvey/bal/index.php>)

Is Honor Possible With Hazing?

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In the simplest terms, hazing can be viewed as the unethical treatment of individuals justified as a condition for membership in Sigma Nu. The more common examples of hazing seen throughout the country involve personal servitude requirements and treating candidates as lower class citizens compared to the initiated members. Why would you expect your candidates to fulfill expectations that are not required of active members?

In many cases, it seems that chapters have lower expectations for active members versus candidates. So an individual who knows little about the internal operations of Sigma Nu is expected to do more than an individual who, in theory, should know more about how Sigma Nu operates and thus be able to carry out chapter duties and tasks at a higher level.

As the spring candidate education program starts for many chapters, now is the time to take a close look at how you are preparing your candidates to be contributing members in the Fraternity. There are numerous resources available to you to assist in that review. Check out the [anti-hazing section](#) of the Sigma Nu website as well as consult your chapter's Leadership Consultant, Greek Advisor and alumni advisors for insight on how to conduct an effective candidate program free of hazing.