



THE DANGERS OF FALLS FROM HEIGHTS

How can we reduce the exposure to fall from heights incidents at the chapter level?

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:

- Conduct 3rd party inspections of chapter properties
- 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

