

## ***SUMMER BREAK NOTICE***

Before you know, it will be the last week of school and students will be completing final exams! Summer break, or the months of May through August, is a high risk period of time for chapter houses. It is important you take the time to properly prepare your chapter house for the summer break period.

**The leading risks to a chapter facility during the summer break period are:**

- *Fire*
- *Vandalism*
- *Theft*
- *Water damage*
- *Wind*
- *Hail*

*The average expense from a fire loss was \$190,000*



*The average expense from a water damage loss was more than \$6,500*



### **Fraternity Insurance Claim Facts**

If you take a look at the loss history of fraternity property claims, it is easy to see why summer break preparation can make a big difference. Here are the simple facts:

- Each year, fire has been the leading risk factor with the majority of the serious fires occurring during summer break. 72% of all claim dollars were paid as a result of fire damage. In all the fires, the common denominator was human error and lack of leadership within the chapter.
- Vandalism is the second leading cause of truly preventable losses. Damage as a consequence of vandals entering an unsecured chapter facility resulted in 22% of the number of all claims.
- Water damage represents 34% of the number of claims filed. This problem, if unchecked, can lead to a large loss.

### **What can you do to avoid these types of losses?**

Only two perils on the list are truly unavoidable, that being wind and hail. However, the risks and resulting claims from wind and hail often occur to the roof and structure of the facility, emphasizing the need to have the facility inspected by a professional on a regular basis to assure it is structurally sound and current damage is repaired.

Most incidents involving water damage could have been minimal if someone had taken the time to prepare the house for break. The plumbing issues creating damage often went unchecked for days, weeks and even months. As a result, what would have been a few hundred dollars in clean up and a small plumbing repair turned into a costly claim.

Avoiding a claim can make a significant difference in the cost of property insurance and ability to provide a safe and healthy environment for undergraduate members. Use the attached *Summer Break Checklist* to help minimize your exposure to a property claim during the summer of 2009.

**What are the benefits of being prepared for Summer Break?**

- Avoid the expense and the time associated with a claim and restoring the damaged area.
- With a large loss, you may risk having an uninhabitable house for the fall semester.
- Water damage, when left unaddressed, combined with heat and humidity can lead to mold growth. Many insurance policies limit coverage in this area.
- Protect your legacy and history from thieves and vandals. A price can be put on everything except sentimental value.