

If a fire should occur...

- CLOSE the doors to stop the spread of the fire
- SOUND the alarm, alert others to the danger
- GET OUT of the building
- NOTIFY the fire department

DO NOT go back into the building or try to save your stuff.

Clothes, books and papers can be replaced-

**YOU CAN'T!**

**LIVING WITH FIRE**  
A PROGRAM FOR CAMPUS AND STUDENT FIRE SAFETY

Living With Fire is a project to develop campus-oriented fire safety material. It is available through the U.S Fire Administration website at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

Funding for this project was provided by the following organizations committed to reducing the tragic losses caused by fires involving students:

- American Cancer Society
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association
- National Fire Sprinkler Association
- NFPA International
- SimplexGrinnell
- United States Fire Administration
- University of Texas System

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**INFO BULLETIN  
ON...**

**Fraternity  
Fatal Fires  
*Kappa Sigma  
Delta Upsilon***

**LIVING WITH FIRE**  
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SCHOOL LOGO HERE

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HERE**

## Greek Fire Incidents Information Bulletin

### Kappa Sigma and Delta Upsilon

**Decatur, Illinois**...A fire on June 8, 2000, at the Kappa Sigma fraternity at Millikin University killed one fraternity brother. At the time of the fire there were 20 people in the building.

The building was a three-story structure that was approximately 60 to 70 years old at the time of the fire. It was not equipped with a fire sprinkler system. It was reported that there were individual smoke detectors in each of the sleeping rooms that were replaced annually. There were also smoke detectors in the common areas, such as hallways, that were connected together. However, there were reports that at the time of the fire the fire alarm system had been silenced.

The fire started on the third floor, in a common area. It was speculated that the fire started in an upholstered chair and was caused by the careless disposal of smoking material.

At the time of the fire there were two occupants on the floor, each in separate rooms. One room had a solid-core door while the other room, where the occupant died, had a hollow-core door.

The fire was detected by a passer-by who pounded on the doors to awaken the occupants. The two occupants on the third floor did not evacuate, and the person in the room with the solid-core door was able to contact the fire department on his cellular telephone. He stayed in touch until he was rescued.

The occupant in the room with the hollow-core door was not able to escape, and he was found approximately six to eight feet from his bunk bed. The door failed during the fire, allowing the smoke and heat into the room.

The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

#### **FACTS ABOUT FIRES IN STUDENT HOUSING...**

The leading cause of fires in Greek housing and dormitories is arson (31%).

Fires cause an average of \$2.8 million in damage per year in fraternities and sororities.

Since 1990, 32 students have died in dormitory and Greek fires. Three-quarters (24) of these deaths have occurred in fraternities and sororities. All but one fatality has happened in fraternities.

From 2000 to mid-2001, Campus Firewatch has identified a total of 26 students that have been killed in fires.

On campus	5
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**Amherst, Massachusetts**...A fire on October 5, 2001 at the Delta Upsilon fraternity totally destroyed the building.

According to fire officials, there were two occupants on the first floor asleep. They awoke at approximately 2:00 p.m. and realized that they had to get to class. They quickly got out of bed, dressed and left the building. After walking down the road several hundred yards they looked back and saw the building on fire.

It is believed that when they got out of bed they threw the bedcovers over a candle that was burning on the floor. This candle, in turn, ignited the bedcovers.

Another occupant who was investigating a smell of smoke detected the fire. He attempted to extinguish the fire using a pressurized water fire extinguisher, but the fire was too big. It quickly spread out of the windows and into the room on the floor above and then throughout the structure.

After the fire was suppressed it was observed that several of the building's smoke detectors were covered with plastic bags. The fire department immediately inspected all of the other Greek occupancies in Amherst and found two other fraternities with covered smoke detectors. Criminal charges against all three fraternities were being considered by the state fire marshal's office.