

# OUTSIDE INFLUENCES: FEDERAL, STATE, MUNICIPALITIES AND UNIVERSITIES

## Federal

### *Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know provision*

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 created new fire safety reporting rules that require schools to report annually to the Secretary of the Department of Education and to the campus community. The fire-safety reporting requirements are being developed; however, there are some basic reporting points that we know will be included:

- Number of fires
- Number of injuries and fatalities related to fires
- Damage caused by fires
- Number of beds protected by sprinklers and fire alarms
- Amount of fire-safety training provided to students

Currently the focus is on on-campus residence halls. It does not include off-campus housing or Greek housing that is not owned by the school.

Suffice it to say that some universities may decide to extend this into the Greek community by leveraging the “recognition” card that they hold.

See additional information from November 2008 *Fraternal Law* and Campus Firewatch.

### *Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act*

The Greek community has been lobbying since 2004 in hopes of getting passage of this important legislation for non-profit organizations operating on college campuses. This bill will allow contributions made to Greek organizations to be tax-deductible when used for physical plant improvements.

[www.fraternalcaucus.org](http://www.fraternalcaucus.org)

[www.fratpac.org](http://www.fratpac.org)

## State, Municipalities and Universities

Recent examples: Columbia, MO - as a result of a fire related death  
Greenville, SC - as a result of a fire related total loss at Sigma Phi Epsilon

Every time there is a fire related injury or death, the newspapers ALWAYS say “a student of XYZ University” so there will continue to be more pressure upon the universities to have a comprehensive university-wide approach to fire safety.

We are prepared to help your volunteers grapple with this issue and when we become aware of any move to mandate sprinklers, we will send out the “Automatic Sprinkler Toolbox” (available at [www.mjsorority.com](http://www.mjsorority.com)) to all of our clients at that campus.