



## Unless a Death Occurs: Hazing Examined

HRH/Kirklin & Co. provided financial support for the development of *Unless a Death Occurs: Hazing Examined*, an incisive documentary on the pervasiveness of hazing on America's high school and college campuses. In particular, this film traces the tragic steps of Walter Dean Jennings, a Plattsburgh State University freshman, who ultimately paid the highest price for admittance into a fraternity banned by college authorities.

The story, although grim and wrought with painful scenes of violence and humiliation, is also a powerful testimony to a community's pledge not to let a death occur without sustainable intervention.

Based on plea agreements structured by Richard Cantwell, District Attorney for Clinton County, New York, the film is granted unprecedented access into normally secret events. Interviews conducted with eleven fraternity brothers responsible for the hazing death of Walter Dean

Jennings provide firsthand accounts of the event. The result is an in-depth analysis of the conditions that sustain hazing behavior.

Analysis is provided in part by two national experts in the field of hazing, Professor and journalist Hank Nuwer of Franklin College, along with Professor Elizabeth Allan of the University of Maine. Supported by interviews with District Attorney Richard Cantwell; Officers of the Plattsburgh Police Department; William Laundry, Dean of Students for Plattsburgh State and many others. The documentary reflects the effort of an entire community to face tragic facts, learn and caution others against similar behaviors. What emerges is a passionate and emotional argument toward ending hazing in America.

You can order just the DVD for \$29.95 for use by your organization only. We recommend the Educational Package which can be purchased for \$300.

### EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE

♦ Included in the package is the DVD and study guide. Groups and organizations receive the licensing rights, allowing them to

show the documentary as many times as desired, for three years.

### SUGGESTED USES FOR THE EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE:

♦ Utilize the documentary in an exhibition screening to raise awareness of the dangers of hazing rituals. Perhaps as part of a larger symposium with invited guests appearing on panel discussions during National Hazing Prevention Week (September 26 – 30, 2005) sponsored by CAMPUSPEAK.

♦ The study guide can be used to facilitate discussions with students: as a classroom teaching tool, as part of orientation to fraternities or sororities; or to educate student-athletes on the dangers of initiation practices to become part of a team.

♦ Use as part of public safety training as a pre-emptive measure to deter future instances of hazing or how to deal with an incident when it occurs.

### STUDY GUIDE

♦ Explores the history, current implications and status of

hazing activities and rituals within schools throughout America. The guide is intended to be a catalyst for change on high school and college campuses.

♦ Written by Hank Nuwer, widely regarded as the leading authority on hazing and lecturer at Pulliam School of Journalism at Franklin College in Indiana. He is the author of four books on hazing: *Broken Pledges*, *Wrongs of Passage*, *High School Hazing* and *The Hazing Reader*. He has appeared in national media outlets including *NBC Nightly News*, *CNN*, *ESPN*, *ABC-20/20* and *U.S. News & World Report*.

As a result of HRH/Kirklin & Co.'s sponsorship, our clients can purchase the *Unless a Death Occurs* **EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE** for \$300. For each additional DVD purchased for \$29.95, you are permitted to reproduce the study guide at no additional cost.

To order the DVD:

1) Call 800-836-5700 ext 100 or

2) Go to the web: <https://www.kirklin.com> and the risk management resources link.



# How To Cut Down On Your Drinking

*From the National Institute On Alcohol Abuse And Alcoholism National Institute Of Health*

If you are drinking too much, you can improve your life and health by cutting down. How do you know if you drink too much? Read these questions and answer "yes" or "no" :

- ♦ Do you drink alone when you feel angry or sad?
- ♦ Does your drinking ever make you late for work?
- ♦ Does your drinking worry your family?
- ♦ Do you ever drink after telling yourself you won't?
- ♦ Do you ever forget what you did while you were drinking?
- ♦ Do you get headaches or have a hang-over after you have been drinking?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you may have a drinking problem. Check with your doctor to be sure. Your doctor will be able to tell you whether you should cut down or abstain. **If you are alcoholic or have other medical problems, you should not just cut down on your drinking--you should stop drinking completely. Your doctor will advise you about what is right for you.** If your doctor tells you to cut down on your drinking, these steps can help you:

## 1. Write your reasons for cutting down or stopping.

Why do you want to drink less? There are many reasons why you may want to cut down or stop drinking. You may want to improve your health, sleep better, or get along better with your family or friends. Make a list of the reasons you want to drink less.

## 2. Set a drinking goal.

Choose a limit for how much you will drink. You may choose to cut down or not to drink at all. If you are cutting down, keep below these limits:

**Women:** No more than one drink a day

**Men:** No more than two drinks a day



A drink is:

- ♦ a 12-ounce bottle of beer;
- ♦ a 5-ounce glass of wine; or
- ♦ a 1 1/2-ounce shot of liquor.

These limits may be too high for some people who have certain medical problems or who are older. Talk with your doctor about the limit that is right for you.

Now -- write your drinking goal on a piece of paper. Put it where you can see it, such as on your refrigerator or bathroom mirror. Your paper might look like this:

My drinking goal:

- ♦ I will start on this day \_\_\_\_\_.
- ♦ I will not drink more than \_\_\_\_ drinks in 1 day.
- ♦ I will not drink more than \_\_\_\_ drinks in 1 week or I will stop drinking alcohol.

## 3. Keep a "diary" of your drinking.

To help you reach your goal, keep a "diary" of your drinking. For example, write down every time you have a drink for 1 week. Try to keep your diary for 3 or 4 weeks. This will show you how much you drink and when. You may be surprised. How different is your goal from the amount you drink now? Use the "drinking diary" to write down when you drink.

**Now you know why you want to drink less and you have a goal. There are many ways you can help yourself to cut down.**

### Try these tips:

**Watch it at home.** Keep a small amount or no alcohol at home. Don't keep temptations around.

**Drink slowly.** When you drink, sip your drink slowly. Take a break of 1 hour between drinks. Drink soda, water, or juice after a drink with alcohol. Do not drink on an empty stomach! Eat food when you are drinking.

**Take a break from alcohol.** Pick a day or two each week when you will not drink at all. Then, try to stop drinking for 1 week. Think about how you feel physically and emotionally on these days. When you succeed and feel better, you may find it easier to cut down for good.

**Learn how to say NO.** You do not have to drink when other people drink. You do not have to take a drink that is given to you. Practice ways to say no politely. For example, you can tell people you feel better when you drink less. Stay away from people who give you a hard time about not drinking.

**Stay active.** What would you like to do instead of drinking? Use the time and money spent on drinking to do something fun with your family or friends. Go out to eat, see a movie, or play sports or a game.

**Get support.** Cutting down on your drinking may be difficult at times. Ask your family and friends for support to help you reach your goal. Talk to your doctor if you are having trouble cutting down. Get the help you need to reach your goal

**Watch out for temptations.** Watch out for people, places, or times that make you drink, even if you do not want to. Stay away from people who drink a lot or bars where you used to go. Plan ahead of time what you will do to avoid drinking when you are tempted. Do not drink when you are angry or upset or have a bad day. These are habits you need to break if you want to drink less.

### **DONOT GIVE UP!**

Most people do not cut down or give up drinking all at once. Just like a diet, it is not easy to change. That is okay. If you do not reach your goal the first time, try again. Remember, get support from people who care about you and want to help. Do not give up!

Source: <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/handout.htm>

# Fire Safety - Lessons Learned

## ...The Hazards of Fireworks

At 7:15 AM on November 1, 2003 a fraternity at the University of West Virginia awoke to a fire. The cause of the fire was a bottle rocket, which had been negligently discharged by a member into another member's room. It landed in his closet, while he slept and his suite door remained shut. The bottle rocket started clothes in his closet on fire. The room's smoke detector sounded its warning and the Chapter President walking by saw the flames through a crack in the door. He quickly called 911 and attempted to control the fire with an extinguisher.

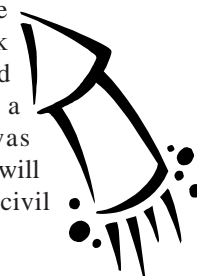


What can you learn from this? Fireworks have no place in a chapter house. Sometimes people cannot see that some decisions and policies are made with their safety and best interest in mind until something bad happens. Stop learning the hard way. Unlike many hazards, the hazard fireworks present can be completely eliminated if you do the right thing.

1. Prohibit the possession of fireworks at the chapter house. When you learn of their existences, confiscate and dispose of them.
2. Do not allow storage of any type of fireworks in any part of the chapter house; and
3. Do not allow fireworks to be discharged on fraternity property, inside or outside.

The sleeping member was woken by the alarm. At this point, the only viable exit was from the window of his second floor room. He jumped to the ground to save his life. Fortunately, he survived the fall but he did sustain burns and a fractured vertebrae. The Morgantown Fire Department responded and controlled the fire but not before the chapter house was significantly damaged and rendered it uninhabitable. As for the member who negligently discharged the bottle rock, he faced the possibility of a felony arson charge. He will be pursued civilly for the damages created by his irresponsible act.

The incident at Morgantown, West Virginia demonstrates this is in the best interest of the chapter, its housing corporation and its member. Do not forget many people suffered from this incident. One member was physically injured, a number of members were displaced from their home in the middle of a semester, volunteers now have to expend valuable personal time to work through the claim and restoration process and a young man who was punished criminally and will be held accountable in civil litigation.



[www.kirklin.com](http://www.kirklin.com)

This past fall we spent a great deal of time improving our website. Please take a moment and check out all of the valuable on-line functions and additional resources now available at [www.kirklin.com](http://www.kirklin.com). Some things you will find:

- ✓ New user registration to automatically receive our newsletter and to be notified when new material and news has been added to the website. HRH/Kirklin & Co. assures that any email address provided will only be used to assist you with the challenges of risk management; your address will never be shared or sold. Sign up today and always be in the know on fraternity risk management improvements.
- ✓ Extensive additional resources at your finger tips will make you an instant expert in fraternity risk management. There are a number of presentations, handouts and guides you can use daily in this important aspect of providing a safe environment for your undergraduates.
- ✓ Use the website to report a property or liability claim. Your claim will go directly to the assigned adjuster resulting in a more timely response at a time you need it the most.
- ✓ Request Certificates of Insurance and Additional Insured endorsements. Don't waste your valuable time wondering who will process this request. Simply answer the questions and your request will go directly to the appropriate account representative.

So many times we have heard, "I wish I had known of your website earlier. It would have saved me a ton of time and effort." Don't waste your time. Save your effort for things that will make a difference, visit [www.kirklin.com](http://www.kirklin.com) today!

### FRMT, Ltd.

A Bermuda Reinsurance Company in partnership with the RSUI insurance organization to compliment the risk management programs of each member fraternity, such as the publishing of this risk management newsletter and providing the following member fraternities with a comprehensive liability insurance program:

Acacia	Delta Chi	Pi Kappa Phi
Alpha Chi Rho	Delta Tau Delta	Pi Lambda Phi
Alpha Epsilon Pi	Delta Upsilon	Psi Upsilon
Alpha Gamma Rho	FarmHouse	Sigma Nu
Alpha Kappa Lambda	Kappa Alpha Order	Theta Chi
Alpha Sigma Phi	Kappa Delta Rho	Theta Xi
Alpha Tau Omega	Phi Kappa Psi	Zeta Beta Tau
Chi Phi	Phi Kappa Tau	Zeta Psi
Chi Psi	Phi Kappa Theta	

## PROPERTY INSURANCE

HRH/Kirklin & Co., LLC, sponsors a property insurance program that in 99% of all cases provides FRMT member fraternities with broader insurance coverage at a lower premium.

Ask about our new discounts!  
Need more information? Contact Suzanne Haas

Telephone: 800-736-4327, ext. (1)203  
Fax: 800-328-0522  
or e-mail [shaas@kirklin.com](mailto:shaas@kirklin.com)

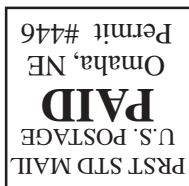
*Founded to serve the needs of fraternal organizations. Committed to improving the risk management programs of its clients.*

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## Do Not Lose Your Benefits

If your fraternity purchases the Member Accident Protection Program, it is important to report your claim as quickly as possible.

Why is it important?

**1. The policy requires reporting within 180 days.**

A delay in reporting can cause your claim to be denied or have your benefit payments delayed.

**2. Avoid collection letters and phone calls!**

Do not ruin your credit because you failed to file a claim. Let us take care of getting your providers the monies due them under the program promptly.

**3. Make the filing process easier.**

The sooner you submit your paperwork the easier it will be to have your benefits paid under the program. As time goes by, paperwork can be lost or become difficult to acquire from your doctors and primary insurance company. Make it easier by submitting all the paperwork as soon as possible.

**4. Get the medical treatment you need with out delays.**

Most healthcare providers want pre-authorization from an insurance company before performing any costly

procedures. Once a claim has been filed the claims examiner is in a better position to provide the needed authorization.

The Member Accident Protection program, otherwise known as MAPP, is designed to help alleviate the financial burdens of out-of-pocket expenses associated with accidental injuries.

Make your members aware of their coverage under the program. A complete explanation of the process and benefits is available at [www.kirklin.com](http://www.kirklin.com). All the needed forms can be downloaded and sent to:

HRH/Kirklin & Co, LLC  
C/O Amber Scardina  
P.O. Box 540673  
Omaha, NE 68154

*To verify if your fraternity is enrolled in the MAPP program, please visit our website.*