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Hazards and Headlines

Spring 2017 has not been a time of happy headlines for Greek organizations:

- An [LSU](#) fraternity is reported to have “purged” two dozen members amid allegations of wrongdoing.
- Two students died in Pennsylvania, one during a [fight](#) between two brothers, leading to criminal charges. The other occurred during an apparent initiation ceremony at [Penn State](#), leading to suspension of Greek events there. The police have called that death “definitely” preventable, as the ambulance was apparently not called for 12 hours.
- Earlier this week, [UCF](#) suspended a fraternity after a member allegedly pointed a gun at a pledge.
- [Arkansas State](#) suspended all Greek social events after a rape arrest.

These events underscore many of the messages we often repeat in the *GRB*:

1. **Expect Strong Responses.** The nationals and campuses involved in these events are showing “zero tolerance,” especially for groups that ignore known risks like hazing and alcohol.
2. **Expect Criminal Investigations.** Harmful events can quickly turn into matters for police, grand juries, and courts.
3. **Expect Everyone to Be Impacted.** The damage is not limited to the victim, nor are the consequences limited to one wrongdoer. Could these events lead to charges against other members? It’s possible. Could they lead to lawsuits? That’s probable. Will others – even those who may not have even been around during the bad events – suffer reputational or emotional harm? Without a doubt.

Protect your house, protect your guests and fellow members, and protect yourself, by helping to manage risks. Be part of the solution, not the next headline.

What Can You Do to Manage Risks?

1. Support your group’s leadership and risk management plan.
2. Be involved in the plan.
3. Actively look for “holes” in the plan.
4. Continually evaluate and improve your plan.