The Many Risks of Transportation

Campaigns against drunk driving work. Forty years ago, statistics showed 7.5% of weekend, nighttime drivers were impaired. By 2007, that percentage had dropped to 2.2% of drivers. Although approximately 10,000 people still die each year from accidents involving alcohol, progress has been made, much from media campaigns with a sobering message: drunk driving kills.

One driving hazard that is receiving increased attention—especially for Greek groups—Involves drivers who are impaired from fatigue:

- In 2012, the Connecticut Supreme Court allowed a lawsuit to proceed against a fraternity. The chapter scheduled an out-of-town party and arranged for drivers. However, one driver was sleep-deprived, allegedly as a result of "Hell Week." The driver crashed, killing himself, 3 others and injuring 5. The lawsuit was settled in 2013.
- In 2012, a wrongful death suit was filed by the mother of an East Carolina University sorority pledge. The suit alleges that a designated driver was driving pledges during "Hell Week." The driver, also a pledge, was sleep-deprived, ran off the road, and hit a tree, killing 2 and wounding a third. The driver was criminally charged with "death by motor vehicle," and the sorority and individual members have subsequently been sued.

Funeral homes and courtrooms are no place for chapter meetings. Consider the questions below as you plan for your chapter’s transportation needs.

### Considerations Regarding Driving

- What are your rules—national, insurance, and university?
- Are your members driving impaired, by alcohol or fatigue?
- Do you have a good transportation plan in place?
- Are alternate sources of transportation available (campus, taxi, etc.)?

### For More Information:

- "Impaired Driving," NHTSA.
- "Yale crash victim’s family settles lawsuit," Yahoo Sports, 9/24/13.
- "Suit says sorority hazing led to fatal crash," NewsObserver, 10/2/12.
- "ECU student charged in car accident deaths pleads guilty," WNCT 9, 10/20/10.