



Fire Sprinkler System Fact Sheet

What You Need to Know

Fires are one of the greatest risks to the safety of our brothers and guests.

From 2009-2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 3,870 fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks. These fires resulted in an annual average of 1 death, 32 injuries, and \$14 million in property damage.¹

Sprinkler systems save lives.

Holmes Murphy, SigEp's property insurance provider, is unaware of any fire related deaths in a fraternity or sorority house protected by a fire sprinkler system.

A National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) study revealed that in the United States, approximately 4,000 fire-related deaths occur per year in non-sprinkled buildings, compared to only 20 fire-related deaths per year in sprinkled buildings.

Fire sprinkler systems are extremely reliable as they are the only system that can detect a fire, sound the alarm, call the fire department and control or extinguish the fire. Fire sprinkler systems control approximately 99% of all fires at their origin **before the fire has time to spread and cause more significant damage.**²

The 54th Grand Chapter placed priority on the installation of sprinkler systems.

SigEp undergraduates recognize the importance of sprinkler systems and voted to pass Resolution #6 during the 54th Grand Chapter Conclave. This legislation

¹ "Campus and Dorm Fires." National Fire Protection Association. <<http://www.nfpa.org/campussafety>>.

² "Top 10 Sprinkler Tips." Holmes Murphy.

<https://www.holmesmurphy.com/fraternal/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/01/Top10_sprinkler_tips_10-11.pdf>

will require all SigEp owned properties with tenants living in the facility to have a working fire sprinkler system by 2021.

Sprinkler systems save you money.

The premium for sprinkled facilities is 40% less than the premium for non-sprinkled facilities through SigEp's property insurance provider, Holmes Murphy.³

How to Install a Sprinkler System in Your Chapter House

Choose a reputable contractor

To find potential contractors, Holmes Murphy recommends the following:

- Consult university officials and other fraternities and sororities on campus
- Use the "Member Search" feature on the National Fire Sprinkler Association website (www.NFSA.org)
- Visit Simplex Grinnell's website (www.tycosimplexgrinnell.com/how-we-can-help/protect-your-business/fire-sprinkler-and-suppression/sprinkler) for information pertaining to fire sprinkler installation and design, as well as for installation proposals and quotes.

As with all contractors, obtain and contact referrals to ensure the contractor's work product is of high quality. Additionally, ensure the contractor carries workers' compensation insurance, as well as liability insurance with a minimum required limit of liability of \$1,000,000. Request that they add the local chapter and the national fraternity as an Additional Insured on their policy.

Obtain financing

The cost to retrofit an existing facility with a fire sprinkler system varies depending on the size of the structure, number of rooms, and the amount of occupied versus non-occupied space. Many facilities can be retrofitted for a cost ranging from \$5.00 per square foot to \$10.00 per square foot.

³ Must submit Sprinkler Discount Application <<https://www.holmesmurphy.com/fraternal/insurance-products/property/>> to Holmes Murphy and provide an annual sprinkler system inspection to qualify for discount.

Knowing that safety is a top priority, SigEp National Housing (SENH) is offering favorable loan rates to AVCs for projects advancing life safety. Contact SENH (housing@sigep.net) to discuss potential projects and financing options.