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Erika Mantz

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Fire Safety Top Priority For UNH, Greek System

Contact: [Peter O'Leary](#)
603-862-1426
Durham Fire Department

Contact: [Erika Mantz](#)
603-862-1567
UNH Media Relations

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DURHAM, N.H. -- The Durham Fire Department, the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office and the University of New Hampshire Greek Affairs Office will conduct the fourth annual Greek Fire Academy Friday, April 21, 2006, beginning at 3 p.m.

"The Durham Fire Department looks forward to presenting the academy each year," said Fire Chief Peter O'Leary. "This proactive fire safety program gives solid hands on training especially designed for Greek housing. Our department is committed to fire safety throughout the Durham/UNH community and we appreciate the continued support we receive from UNH and the State Fire Marshal's Office."

The afternoon of events will take place in the Memorial Union Building, Alpha Tau Omega and on the Mills Hall lawn. Fire officials will discuss the fire at UNH's Chi Omega house earlier this semester and show a video of the Station Night Club Fire in Rhode Island, one of the deadliest nightclub fires in U.S. history. In addition, there will be fire extinguisher training, a firefighter obstacle course, mock dorm room life safety inspection and the chance for students to navigate a (theatrical) smoke-filled basement.

"We embrace the fact that the Durham Fire Department is able to put forth such a great effort with fire prevention and life safety through this partnership," said Steve Pappajohn, coordinator of Greek Affairs at UNH. "We know that knowledge is the key ingredient to preventing loss, and this academy is about education, prevention and training mixed in with a little bit of fun. Our fraternity and sorority leaders have endorsed it since the first year."

All recognized Greek fraternity and sorority houses are participating.