

National APIDA Panhellenic Association Risk Management

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Back in the early 2000s, when discussions were being held to form what would eventually become NAPA, the National APIDA Panhellenic Association, risk management concerns were an integral part of the conversations of the fraternities' and sororities' national leadership.

During that time, there were some very public risk management incidents involving alcohol, hazing, student injuries, and deaths. These incidents drove some of the early conversations about member safety and what role an umbrella organization could play in helping its member groups address these issues.

From the very beginning, membership in NAPA has required each organization to maintain a risk management policy, an anti-hazing policy, and liability insurance.

Although maintaining policies around risk management, hazing, and liability insurance was common for many other umbrella organizations, not all NAPA member organizations had them in place. As a collective entity, NAPA used this opportunity to standardize the policies by creating these as membership requirements. Groups that did not already have them in place were given 2 years to implement them and come into compliance. NAPA leadership worked with member organizations to give them the support to bring them into compliance. By 2008, each of the member organizations were in compliance with FIPG.

In the spring of 2019, new [Alcohol and Drug Guidelines](#) were announced by the NIC. This generated some discussion around how and why these guidelines were put in place and whether or not NAPA should follow suit. NAPA took this opportunity to be proactive and help our member organizations' national leadership revisit the issues surrounding alcohol, hazing, and other risk management issues impacting college fraternities and sororities.

In June 2019, NAPA conducted an environmental survey to review each of the member organizations' risk management policies and procedures. The survey covered items such as the content of the current risk management policy, as well as how each organization managed distribution and education of their policies.

Based on this information, NAPA worked with Holmes Murphy Fraternal Practice to host a webinar in August 2019 to introduce the new Holmes Murphy risk management policy template and explain some of the history and background of the updates.

As of September 2019, several NAPA member organizations have updated their policies based on the Holmes Murphy template. NAPA and Holmes Murphy are working with each of the groups to not only update their policies, but to explore various ways to improve their education and enforcement efforts.

NAPA will provide further updates surrounding the health and safety guidelines at the AFA Annual Meeting. If your university is interested in updates from any member organization or NAPA leadership, please contact them directly.

Hannah Seoh serves as the chair for the National APIDA Panhellenic Association.

Brian Gee is a past chair for the National APIDA Panhellenic Association and currently serves as the director of risk reduction for Pi Alpha Phi Fraternity.