

**SACUBO BEST PRACTICES ENTRY:
A QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION TO GREEK FIRE SAFETY**

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Abstract

The University of Florida's Department of Environmental Health & Safety has been performing fire safety inspections in on and off campus Greek housing for approximately 14 years. A tremendous amount of information has been accumulated, violations were identified and corrected but there was never an easy or efficient method to determine if an individual Greek house was actually becoming safer for its occupants. There was no process to compare houses to each other, rank from best to worst and identify organizations that required additional focus. Add to the mix a highly transient resident population, with very little corporate memory, a means to rank a house's fire safety inspection results and then track those results from semester to semester, was an absolute necessity. During the first half of 2002 a score card was developed that would be used to quantify the written inspection report for each house and result in a numerical score for that particular semester's fire safety inspection. Working in conjunction with the Dean of Students Office, a program that included rewards and consequences was implemented in the Fall of 2003. ScoreCards for the Fall 2002 semester were completed to determine where each house was ranked. The Fall 2002 rankings would become the initial benchmark for comparison to determine the effectiveness of the ScoreCard program. Inspections in subsequent years can be compared to the Fall 2002 rankings so that an individual house can index its progress against itself and the population of all Greek houses affiliated with the University. A comparison table (Table 1. Ranking of Greek Houses) is provided later showing the improvement between Fall 2002 and Fall 2005.

The on-going cost for implementation of this program is minimal (input time at the conclusion of preparing the written inspection report) after development of the score card, semester recaps and annual recaps. The written report and the score card are delivered electronically to each of the organization's contacts on file with the office of the Fire Safety Inspector.

Introduction to the Organization

The University of Florida (UF) is a major, public, comprehensive, land-grant, research university. The state's oldest, largest and most comprehensive university, Florida is among the nation's most academically diverse public universities. Florida has a long history of established programs in international education, research and service. It is one of only 17 public, land-grant universities that belong to the Association of American Universities.

In 1853, the state-funded East Florida Seminary took over the Kingsbury Academy in Ocala. The seminary moved to Gainesville in the 1860s and later was consolidated with the state's land-grant Florida Agricultural College, then in Lake City. In 1905, by legislative action, the college became a university and was moved to Gainesville. Classes first met with 102 students on the present site on Sept. 26, 1906. UF officially opened its doors to women in 1947. With more than 50,000 students, Florida is now one of the five largest universities in the nation.

Florida has a 2,000-acre campus and more than 900 buildings (including 170 with classrooms and laboratories). The northeast corner of campus is listed as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. The UF residence halls have a total capacity of some 7,000 students and the five family housing villages house more than 2,200 married and graduate students.

The Greek community consists of 38 fraternity and sorority houses. 28 houses are located with-in campus boundaries, with the remaining 10 houses located adjacent to

campus boundaries but on city property. Approximately 1500 students reside in Greek housing on a full-time basis with a total Greek population of 5000 students having access to these facilities.

Statement/ (Restatement) of the Problem/Initiative

An efficient evaluation process to identify Greek housing's and the University's efforts to provide a fire safe environment for its occupants on the University of Florida

campus has been an on-going problem. Analysis of written reports was tedious, time consuming, and not productive. Alternately the ScoreCard provides an unbiased evaluation tool to facilitate a university managed corrective action program.

Development of the ScoreCard provided a single page recap, allowing comparison between houses, between semesters, even between years quickly and almost effortlessly. People relate to a number grade more readily than to a written report. The number of times a particular violation is counted, creating a numerical score has significant more impact than simply stating the violation itself. The ScoreCard also provides the houses with a workable tool to perform self checks throughout the semester, creating an environment that supports fire safety on a daily basis, not just after a tragedy or a fire safety inspection.

Design

The ScoreCard utilizes an Excel spreadsheet with line item descriptions of fire safety violations, boxes to enter quantity of each violation, point value for each violation,

then formulas that perform the math functions, with if--then statements automating the process which determines the house's fire safety level for the inspection. Scoring is just like golf. The lower the score the better, meaning fewer life safety violations observed during the inspection generate fewer points. Level 1 point values run from 0 to 49, Level 2 point values run from 50 to 99, Level 3 point values run from 100 to 149, and Level 4 point values are 150 and up. The ScoreCard (Figure 1.) is illustrated on the following page.

Violations	# of Violations	Point Value	Violation Total Points
Fire Alarm Out of Service -- <i>If outage longer than 4 hours Fire Watch is required.</i>			
Fire Sprinkler System Out of Service -- <i>If outage longer than 4 hours Fire Watch is required.</i>			
Smoke Detectors Missing/Broken/Incorrect Install		10	0
Fire Alarm Deficiency		10	0
Fire Sprinkler Deficiency		10	0
Hood/extinguishers inspections not performed		10	0
Separation Doors		10	0
Unprotected Openings in Corridor		10	0
Floor to floor Separation		10	0
Egress Deficiency		10	0
Blocked Second Means of Escape		10	0
Range Hood cleaning		10	0
Inaccessible areas/rooms		10	0
Hazardous storage/conditions		10	0
Range Hood Substandard		4	0
Kitchen Suppression System out of date		4	0
Emergency Lighting		4	0
Exit Signs Not Maintained		4	0
Loft Ingress/Egress Violation		4	0
Electrical Violations		4	0
Interior Finishes		4	0
Extension Cords		2	0
Poor Housekeeping		2	0
Permanent Use of Temporary Lighting		2	0
Use of Candles		2	0
House Violation Point Total		Current Score	0
0 to 49 Points = Level 1 50 to 99 Points = Level 2 100 to 149 Points = Level 3 150 Points or Higher = Level 4		<u>House Fire Safety Program Participation</u>	<u>Level 1</u>
		Spring 2006 Inspection Score	0
Inspection Date : /06		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
0			
0			
0			
Fire Inspector: <u>Richard C. Graves</u>			

Figure 1. ScoreCard Template with violations and point rankings

Implementation

The original concept for the ScoreCard Program was the product of months of discussion within Environmental Health & Safety. Following its design the State Fire Marshal was given an opportunity to review our idea. With some minor adjustments the next step was to sell the concept to the Dean of Students Office. Their support in granting incentives or consequences was an absolute necessity for the program to work. Both offices agreed to implement the program with a one year rollout period starting in the Fall of 2003. During this initial year all reports would be provided to each house, but the consequence and reward aspect of the program would not be imposed until Fall 2004.

Benefits

The addition of the ScoreCard to the inspection process has shown significant success in reducing the number of violations found in Greek Housing. After three full years the results speak for themselves. A 54% reduction in average scores for this community means that the students that have chosen to participate in Greek Life are safer today than they were three years ago. There is still room for improvement, and everyone involved with the Greek program must stay vigilant and not become complacent.

Table 1. Ranking of Greek Houses after three years.

	Fall 2002	Fall 2005	Shift in Ranking
<u>Fraternity Houses</u>			
Level 1 (best)	0	2	+2
Level 2	1	12	+11
Level 3	6	4	-2
Level 4 (worst)	14	2	-12
Not Occupied	0	1	
<u>Total Fraternities</u>	21	21	
 <u>Sorority Houses</u>			
Level 1 (best)	5	11	+6
Level 2	7	3	-4
Level 3	3	0	-3
Level 4 (worst)	0	1	+1
<u>Total Sororities</u>	15	15	

Table 2. ScoreCard Points of Greek Houses after 3 years.

	Fall 2002	Fall 2005	Improvement %
<u>Fraternities</u>			

Total Points	4636	1840	60%
Total Inspected	21	21	
Average Point Total	221	88	60%

Sororities

Total Points	1004	764	24%
Total Inspected	14	14	
Average Point Total	72	55	24%

Combined Greeks

Average Point Total	161	74	54%
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Retrospect

The ScoreCard provides a tool that enables house corporation management and the university to evaluate and manage improvements Fire Safety within the Greek community. The University of Florida now has a process in place that allows evaluation of its Greek Fire Safety program, which will provide a roadmap to further reduction of fire code violations and enhance the level of fire safety within the Greek community.