

**WHITewater POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE – 11/12/2007**

“TAU KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY HOUSE FIRE”

On Monday, November 12, 2007, at approximately 2:50 a.m. the Whitewater Emergency Communications Center received a report of a fire at the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) Fraternity House at 1238 West Main Street in the City of Whitewater. Units of the Whitewater Fire Department, Whitewater EMS, La Grange Fire Department, Whitewater Police Department, and UW-Whitewater Campus Police Department responded to the scene.

Activated fire alarms alerted the residents of the Fraternity who were able to safely evacuate the building prior to the arrival of fire/rescue personnel. It took firefighters approximately 45 minutes to bring the blaze under control. Although there were no injuries to residents or firefighters, there was extensive smoke and fire damage to the two story structure.

Although the fire is still under investigation, preliminary indication is that the fire was accidental in origin. The Fire Marshall's Office will be conducting an investigation later today.

Ten students have been displaced as a result of the fire. The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is taking active steps to help those students find alternate housing. The UW-Whitewater News and Public Affairs Office will have a press release available which should detail those efforts. The Whitewater Emergency Management Director is working with the Red Cross to support the efforts by the University to assist those students impacted by the fire.

In 1996, another fire extensively damaged the TKE House. That fire was also regarded as accidental in origin.