In Greek or off-campus housing units, students may wish to construct loft beds – to maximize available floor space in their rooms. Often times, these loft beds are constructed in a manner which creates fire safety hazards for the occupants. To eliminate this dangerous situation, the Georgia Tech EHS Department has adopted a standard “Loft Bed Design Guideline”. These guidelines reflect the minimum standard that all existing and new loft beds should conform to. Please contact the Georgia Tech Fire Safety Office at (404)894-2990 for additional information.

EHS would like to extend a special note of thanks to the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity for their proactive efforts in this area. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Georgia Tech alum Rob Schulten (BC ’98) of New South Construction and Douglas W. Fisher, PE of Fisher Engineering for contributing their professional expertise and personal time to assist the Georgia Tech community with this important endeavor.
Isometric View

Pi Kappa Phi Loft Design
220 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, GA

7-7-2008
General notes:

- Reduce existing lofts so they extend no closer than 42 inches from the corridor wall.
- Relocate the existing sprinkler from the corridor wall to the underside of the remaining loft. Pendent sprinkler (with guard) with the deflector will be located just below the joists. CPVC piping will be run just above the loft floor, along the wall.
- Verify that sprinkler protection is provided at the ceiling level (above the loft) on either side of divided lofts. If not, provide a sprinkler on both sides of the subdividing wall.
- Replace existing smoke detector below the loft with new 120v with battery backup. The detector will be interconnected with the detector above the loft. If the space above the loft is subdivided, provide a smoke detector on each side (120v with battery backup).
- All wiring on the loft will be in conduit and terminate in back boxes with receptacles/switches and cover plates.
- Minimum distance from the ceiling to the loft floor level will be 36 inches.
- Minimum distance below the loft will be 72 inches.
- All lofts to be constructed of substantial wood, i.e. 2x6 joists, ¾ inch plywood. No MDF or particle board permitted. All new lofts will be constructed of new wood.
- Lofts will be structurally independent of the room walls and ceiling.
- Ladders shall be constructed of substantial materials and be located out of the path of travel in the room.