

Donald's en route and shortly after 5 a.m. saw the crash from the highway.

The accident occurred near Exit 24, at the Bridgeport/Fairfield line, where a tractor-trailer that had skidded out of control and crashed was blocking northbound lanes.

"We knew it was a horrible accident," Sinatra said. "We had no idea it was our friends."

Delta Kappa Epsilon was founded at Yale in 1844. Both President Bush and his father, former President George H.W. Bush, were members. It was not the university's first fraternity, but for years it was Yale's most prominent. When fraternities lost favor on campus in the 1960s and relinquished their ornate clubhouses, Delta Kappa Epsilon was the sole fraternity that remained active, meeting in common rooms until it reemerged with a new house off campus in 1987.

Today, there are about 15 fraternities and sororities with Yale members, according to Conroy, the Yale spokesman.

In contrast to some campuses that have stepped up their monitoring of Greek systems following alcohol-related deaths - like one at MIT in 1997 that resulted in a \$6 million settlement paid by the university - Yale has maintained a somewhat distanced relationship with its Greek system, which some describe as a subculture on a campus where residential colleges dominate social life.

But university officials said that at a time like this, divides break down. The university has made chaplains available, along with counseling for the members, among other services and assistance.

"Whether it was just a group of students whose only affiliation was friendship or whether it was members of a fraternity - that makes no difference to the university in how they respond to helping the students," Conroy said.

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