Northeastern University Students:

With the warm weather coming back, we are seeing more students on rooftops and decks off-campus.

Every year, there are deck collapses and falls from rooftops in Boston, most with serious injuries. Some of these accidents have occurred because individuals have not followed rules, overloaded spaces beyond permitted levels, or simply been careless. At other times, it is because the space is not physically safe or does not meet code for occupancy.

If your apartment and/or building gives you access to a rooftop or deck, it is very important that you:

1. Verify that your lease permits you access to this space. Flat roofs, especially, require explicit city approval for occupancy.
2. Understand its limitations (i.e., weight limits, access guidelines)
3. Ensure this space is safe (sound construction, solid, no rot or loose boards, etc.)
4. Obey all rules regarding the space. For example, charcoal, propane and other portable grills are not permitted on any roof, porch or fire escape by law.

If your apartment and/or building does not allow you access to a rooftop or deck, please respect this limitation. It is in place because those areas are not deemed safe for occupancy.

If you have questions regarding a rooftop or deck access, please consult with your landlord and/or property manager. You may also contact City of Boston Inspectional Services (ISD) at 617-635-5300 for questions regarding roof safety and permitted activities.