

Risk Management in Recreation Programs, Playground and Special Events

This lecture is designed for safety managers and recreation professionals to increase awareness about methods for eliminating, addressing or managing risks inherent to recreation programs, playgrounds and special events. Prevention and safety will be emphasized, as well as responding to emergencies and ongoing reassessment of the risk management plan. This session will be presented by Dr. Nancy White; a member of PlaySafe LLC's planning team. Dr. White has over 20 years experience working in the recreation field. She has worked in the State of New Mexico for the University of New Mexico, the City of Albuquerque, the City of Rio Rancho, Santa Fe Community College, Albuquerque T.V.I. Community College, and in the State of California for California State University, Fresno and California State University, Northridge.

The lecture covers items such as:

- I. Safety and Prevention
 - a. Recreation Programs (staff trainings, transportation, policies & procedures, liability waivers & permission slips, and orientation for participants and/or parents)
 - b. Playground Supervision (supervising plan, age appropriateness, clothing, number of children, various age & ability levels within the group, number and location of supervisors, emergency action plan, and equipment and surfacing inspections)
 - c. Special Events (entertainment & amplified sound, food, beverages, alcohol service, attendance & admission procedures, affects on nearby businesses or homes, tents or canopies, stages and bleachers, fireworks, permits and licenses)
- II. Responding to an Accident or Emergency
 - a. Communication Planning in advance
 - b. Policies and procedures
 - c. Communication
 - d. Equipment
 - e. First aid supplies
 - f. Training
 - g. Emergency Action Plan

III. Training, Evaluation, and Reassessment

- a. Maintaining and upgrading certifications, in-service training, and staff & program evaluations, and ongoing reassessment of procedures, policies & readiness level

IV. Continuous Improvement (high expectations of quality, seek out better procedures, equipment, communication tools, training methods)