Exceptional Safety Planning in Recreational Facilities

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SAFETY

• How important is safety in your organization?
What are you actively doing about it?
Rome, Italy
City of Philadelphia Commission on Parks and Recreation Report 2013

92% of survey respondents spend 10% or less of their operational budget on security.

Who is responsible for day-to-day security at your facility?
- 82% in-house staff
- 12% police
- 6% contracted security provider

How would you characterize facility security in your organization?
- 65% say security has become a greater concern
- 29% say level of concern unchanged
- 6% say less of a concern

33% of respondents say guns are allowed at facilities or events but...
84% of respondents would prefer to see guns left at home.
Respondents’ most pressing security concerns:
1. Unauthorized access
2. Theft
3. Patron-on-patron violence
4. Abduction
5. Active shooter
6. Natural disaster
7. Bomb threat

Most common security incidents respondents have faced:
1. Theft
2. Unauthorized access
3. Patron-on-patron violence
4. Natural disaster
5. Abduction
6. Active shooter
7. Bomb threat
Survey uncovered feelings of fear, isolation and stress among rec staff members. Philadelphia Parks and Recreation took several actions:

- Moved to strengthen its partnership with the Philadelphia Police Department
- Changed the registration and operation policy for adult basketball leagues
- Began clustering activities at district recreation centers
- Made improvements to external grounds (fencing, gates) at 50 centers
- Began installing security cameras at 31 facilities
- Made requested changes in maintenance, landscaping and lighting at 10 recreation centers
- Began deploying part-time staff to high-risk areas
- Conducted outreach to advisory councils
What is important to you and your agency?

Safety of your employee?  
Safety of your patrons?
Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center

- Safety has been an important part of how we do business for both patrons and employees
- Safety and Security Manager
- Active Safety Committee - review incidents & provide training
- Emergency Action Plan for each department
- Hire off duty Police Officers for security
- Installed new camera system consisting of 75+ cameras
- Changed programing - no men’s basketball league or social rentals in the gym
Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center

- Secured entrances
- Considering non-gender changing rooms to replace locker rooms
- Implemented Code Adam
- Planned SWAT training drills with Police
- Window graphics for the indoor pool
- Emergency Response Team - ERT
Indoor Pool Window Graphics
Emergency Response Team - ERT

- Skilled staff member always on duty
- Ongoing training
- Carry a cell phone with number registered with the Valley Emergency Communications Center - 911
- Eliminates the training of the entire staff to a high-level training to a select few
- Won the Utah Parks and Recreation Association Outstanding Innovative Program Award
MAJORITY CONSIDER KOPFC SAFE

Nearly three-quarters of respondents rate the security and safety of KOPFC as "good" or "excellent." Less than 5% express any dissatisfaction with the safety of the facilities.

Q: How would you rate the safety and security of the Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center?

- 25%: Good
- 48%: Excellent
- 23%: Fair
- 8%: Poor
But accidents happen......
Oostman Aquatic Safety Risk Assessment
Traveler’s Risk Control
Senior Risk Control Consultant
Florence, Italy
Employee Assistance Program - Blomquist Hale

Assists with:
- Crisis
- Behavioral
- Relationships
- Financial
- Legal
- Training for supervisory staff
Steps to Exceptional Safety Planning in Recreational Facilities

- Think outside the ordinary
- Fresh set of eyes to audit facility
- Active safety committee and/or personnel
- Invest in safety
- Learn from mistakes and other’s mistakes