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Planning a Successful Safety Program

Not knowing where you are going is how some operators might feel in these tough economic times. However, regardless of how tough the economy is, reducing, downsizing, or eliminating safety is an absolute No! No! The following outline provides you with a quick summary of what is required to establish and maintain a successful safety program.

A. Management Commitment

The Owner must endorse the Safety Program at your facility. A written Safety Program is a signed statement by the ownership of their commitment to safety and to provide a safe and fun environment for the facility visitors and employees. The assignment of responsibility for the Safety Program should be given to someone with authority to oversee changes and allocate appropriate resources.

B. Program Analysis

“Do you have any idea as to where you are going or where you’ve been?” To help identify unsafe conditions or practices at your facility, you need to act by making a complete review of your injury and accident log. Identify how they happened? How often and what attractions or areas of the facility were involved? Who is responsible to ensure the review will occur? What records will be included? How will corrective actions be documented and tracked?

C. Education and Training

How often have you heard, “But I didn’t know.” A good safety training program describes how facility safety education “needs” will be identified and who will be responsible for the program. The training course content and attendance records must be documented.

D. Record Keeping

Successful safety programs keep good records. These records assist in identifying trends and keeping track of accidents to prevent injuries. Examples of records that must be kept include (not all inclusive): records of injuries and illnesses, safety training, safety inspections, status reports of any corrective actions, and safety meetings with attendance records.

E. Accident Investigation

It is critical to determine the cause of an incident to see if similar circumstances exist elsewhere in your facility. These must be eliminated. An accident investigation process should be defined: How will the notification process occur? What types of accidents will be investigated? Who is responsible and included in the investigation? How will corrective actions be tracked? How will the process be documented?

F. Inspection and Audit

Unsafe conditions or practices in your facility should be identified before someone gets hurt. Safety inspections are not meant to be “Gotcha!” but rather, a method to remove risk from your Facility. The following questions should be answered: Who will be responsible for seeing the audits and inspections occur? How often? Which areas? How will corrections that are needed be documented?

G. Review and Revision

As the nature of the business changes and new attractions are added, a review of the safety program becomes more critical. As new safety regulations occur, they need to be incorporated into the safety program. Efforts should be dedicated to where there is the greatest risk. Only by reviewing the safety program on a regular basis can this be achieved.