

Outdoor Skating Rink - Risk Management Practices

To control liability risk associated with the operation of outdoor skating rinks, the following issues should be addressed or put in place:

- Appropriate signage indicating hours of use and safety rules:
 - No horseplay
 - No glass containers
 - No drugs or alcohol
 - No hockey sticks or pucks except as hours of operation permit
 - Contact name and phone number to report problems
 - Large "Open" and "Closed" signs available
- Safe access to and from the rink itself. Consider stairs and railing if there is a grade involved. Sanding walkways is also important to prevent slips and falls
- Inspection of the rink and ice condition on a daily basis. Evaluate ice condition, access safety (icy, slippery) and condition of facilities and boards. Close the rink to public use (with clear signage) if unsafe conditions exist.
- Prior to flooding, make sure the area is free from potentially hazardous objects, especially those that might be hidden by snow.
- Flood the rink periodically to maintain a safe ice condition. Be wary of cracks that can form in especially cold weather and false ice that can occur as temperatures fluctuate. The rink should be closed (using signage and other obvious methods) when ice or other conditions render use unsafe.
- When performing snow removal, make sure the general public is not in the vicinity if snowblowers or other power equipment is in use.
- If the rink will be operated after dark, make sure the access, parking and rink itself is thoroughly lit and wired according to code. Conversely, if not lit, signage should indicate the rink is open during daylight hours only.
- The boards for the rink (if used) should not present any additional hazard such as stakes that stick out of the snow to create a trip and impalement hazard.
- If a warming hut is present make sure the heating source is properly vented and does not create a fire or carbon monoxide hazard.
- If the rink will be supervised by an attendant, the warming house should be equipped with a first-aid kit with no ingestible medicines, a telephone or other form of communication, and a list of contact names and phone numbers for specific situations such as emergencies, possible rink closures, etc.
- The warming house should also be equipped with an incident/injury log. This is used to document injuries or incidences that have occurred at that location. The following information should be recorded on the injury/incident log:

- Name of the injured party/individual involved with a specific incident, age, home address, phone number, parent's or guardian's name, address and phone number
- Date of the incident, rink attendant in charge at the time of the incident, where the incident occurred, and a description of the incident
- Kind of injury, if applicable, first aid given and by whom, where the injured party was taken, if applicable, and whether or not the parent or guardian was notified
- Eye witnesses' names, addresses and phone numbers