Improving Safety During High Risk Activities

HARRY SCHAEFFER AND TANYA GUILD

Session Outline
- What Makes an Activity High Risk
- HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES
- Facilities
- Other Things to Consider
- Safety Related Policies and Procedures
- Investigations
- Safety Guidelines
- Questions/Comments

What Makes an Activity High Risk
You have to decide which activities are high risk
Agency and individual specific
**High risk activities result in high risk events
example – mealtime (feeding) > choking
example – transportation > vehicle accidents
Improving safety during high risk activities requires you to
reduce the risk
improve interventions

Handling Challenging Behaviors
What are your procedural responses to the following?
- suicidal ideation
- aggression/assault (physical & sexual)
- threats
- missing students/elopement

Bullying
Anti-bullying policy, procedures & curriculum
Cyberbullying: What do you use for digital citizenship training/curriculum?
https://www.iste.org/explore/digital-citizenship/9-resources-teaching-digital-citizenship
**Lockdowns**

1. Soft & hard lockdown
   a. Preparations
      - https://www.crisigo.com/offers/safe-classroom
      - https://www.ruvna.com/
   b. During
   c. After

2. Tools in emergency backpacks

**Emergency Operations**

- It is always about the real event
- Create real scenarios to practice
- Staff should do what they have been taught to do
- Always debrief
- Consult with local fire and police
- Are there unattended (independent) students?
- Is everyone accounted for?
- Risks associated with practice
- How does event start and end?
- Community emergency
- Communications

**Medical Events and Emergencies**

The right experience
- Staff training
- Practice for high risk situations
- Include local resources in those practices
- Sequence for communications
- Cardiac arrest (CPR, 911, defib, DNR)
- Serious injury

**Evacuations**

- What to take?
- Where to go?
- Agreements
- How to get there?
- Fire
  - Fire extinguishers
- Bomb threat
- Weather

**By the Numbers**

- 27 incidents in 16 states
- 213 casualties – excluding the shooters
- 85 killed 2 law enforcement officers 1 unarmed security officer
- 128 wounded 6 law enforcement officers
- 27 shooters – 23 male, 3 female, 1 at large
  - 10 committed suicide 11 apprehended by police 4 killed by police
  - 1 killed by citizens 1 at large
- 9 incidents ended with the exchange of gunfire between the shooters and law enforcement

**Active Shooter**

- Announcement & Training
- Run, Hide, Fight (HS) vs. Run, Hide Survive (Elem & MS)
- Challenges with practicing for this event
- Arming staff
- https://www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-resources
Transportation
Vehicle safety equipment
Vehicle inspections
Vehicle maintenance
Seat Belts
Lifts and other equipment
Driver training and experience
Motor vehicle accidents

Other High Risk Activities
Lifting and transfers
Responsible risk as part of daily activities
Safety vs human rights (GPS tracker, bed)
Activities in or near water
Mealtime/Food
Fill in staff, volunteers and summer employees
Medication administration
Outdoor activities

Facilities and Equipment
Trust health and fire professionals
Inspect all buildings and equipment regularly
Be proactive not reactive when it comes to repair

Facility Inspection
Emergency exits blocked
Excessive use of extension cords
Cracked outlets
Broken windows/peeling paint
Mold (ceiling tiles)
Toxic cleaning supplies easily accessible
Broken furniture
Torn carpets

Have You Considered?
Abduction
Aircraft Crash
Civil Demonstrations
Hazardous Materials Release
Structural Failure

Safety Related Policies and Procedures
Keep them simple
Build in safeguards and opportunities to prevent errors
Location and availability of policies
Policy review and revision
Investigations

- What, When, How, Why, Who
- Incident Reporting
- Root Cause Conversations
- Don't play the blame game
- Honestly and thoroughly investigate all incidents
- Process Improvement
- Share safety findings and root cause recommendations

Leader's Guide to Safety

- Leadership creates the culture
- Don't rely on being lucky
- Not knowing what you don't know is not an excuse
- Expectations
- Meetings
- No compromise
- Seek input from staff (employee surveys and complaints)
- Safety committee
- Employees need to know leadership has their back

More Guidelines

- Transparency and accountability
- Practice matters
- Communicate precisely and clearly and often
- Be assertive about safety concerns and escalate appropriately
- Sweat the small stuff
- Make safety part of classroom [performance] observations

Final Thoughts

- Leaders set the agenda and create the culture – you decide how important safety is in your organization
- Make safety the “FIRST” thought not the “afterthought”
- Identify your high risk activities and try to reduce the risk
- Anticipate, prepare for and practice for incidents resulting from high risk activities
- Include safety in strategic planning, quality assurance, quality improvement and process improvement

Questions/Comments

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