

TML Risk Management Pool - Loss Control Department

LOSS CONTROL GUIDELINES

PUBLIC SKATEBOARD AREAS

1. The skateboard parks, ramps, and/or "areas" must be designed and constructed with a priority commitment to reduce the risk of injury to participants and users, and to reduce the liability exposure to both the municipality and the users. The purpose of the skateboard park, ramp, or "area" should be to give skaters a safer alternative to skating on streets, sidewalks, and in parking lots.
2. The area should be designed per appropriate safety standards. All design specifications, assembly instructions, and maintenance/operations recommendations from the developer, engineer, and/or manufacturer must be retained on file.
3. The skateboard area must be completely enclosed by a fence at least eight (8) feet in height. It is preferable that the fence be located at least eight (8) feet from the edge of the skating surface to allow for a hazard-free "fall zone" before reaching the fence. The fence should provide for adequate protection for spectators from flying boards and/or falling skaters, and should also help protect the skaters from interference and distractions by spectators and passers-by. In the hazard-free "fall zone," an appropriate impact attenuating material (e.g. pea gravel, loose sand, mulch, etc.) should be maintained at depths of 6 - 9 inches for a distance of at least six (6) feet around the entire perimeter of the skating surface.
4. The skateboard parks and/or ramps should be supervised by trained personnel whenever open to the public. Skateboard "areas" that simply provide a relatively flat skating surface (without ramps, bowls or other graded surfaces) within a secured, fenced area do not necessarily have to be supervised full-time. Supervisory employees must be trained regarding all safety rules and procedures, operational procedures, management requirements, etc. All training and orientation given skateboard area employees must be documented and retained on file.
5. ***For skateboard parks, ramps or other graded areas***, there must be a documented daily visual check by the employees on duty for any visible

hazards or repair needs. These inspections should be documented and retained on file.

6. ***For flat skateboard "areas,"*** there must be a documented complete inspection performed by the maintenance supervisor at least once monthly; included in all inspections should be any walking or standing surfaces, fencing, steps, hand rails, spectator areas, etc.
7. All maintenance and repair work should be documented as to type of maintenance performed, the name of the employee performing the work, and the date completed.
8. ***All users of the skateboard park, ramp or other graded areas,*** must complete a facility registration card. The user, and both of his/her legal guardians (if a minor), must read and complete the warning and waiver provided by the city.
9. **Safety equipment must be worn at all times while using the facility.** This equipment shall include, but not be limited to, the following: appropriate skateboard, helmet, knee and elbow pads, gloves and wrist supports, and proper shoes. The skateboard supervisors (employees) may prohibit skaters from using the park if their equipment is not deemed satisfactory.
10. ***In skateboard parks, ramps or other graded areas,*** the skateboard supervisors (employees) must be stationed such that the entire area may be viewed and monitored for rules violations.
11. In skateboard parks, ramps, other graded areas or secured flat surface areas, the number of people allowed in the area should be limited to minimize injuries resulting from collisions. The Recreation Director should determine the patron limit based upon the size of the skateboard area, the number of employees on duty, seasonal demand, etc.
12. **The rules governing the use of the skateboard park or "area" must be prominently posted.** Skateboard runs should be labeled clearly as to degree of difficulty. The park should retain the right to revoke skating privileges of participants who are rowdy or who otherwise do not abide by the rules.
13. ***In skateboard parks, ramps or other graded areas,*** skateboard supervisors (employees) should be certified in Red Cross First Aid and an appropriate first aid kit should be readily available on site. Appropriate police and ambulance phone numbers, as well as ready access to a telephone, should be maintained. An adequate emergency plan must be

developed for the skateboard operation and should be appropriately communicated to all employees.

14. A complete accident report should be filed by the skateboard employee on duty following any accident or injury occurring at the skateboard area. This documentation should include: (1) the date; (2) the time of day; (3) the injured person's name, address and phone number(s); (4) the name of the injured person's parent or guardian, if a minor child; (5) the names and phone numbers of any witnesses; and (6) a complete description of the events and circumstances surrounding the accident or injury. These accident reports should be retained on file.

Any additional recommendations made by the developer or manufacturer of the city's skateboard park or area which place further restrictions or guidelines upon the supervision and operation of the skateboard area shall be followed.

While there may be a considerable risk exposure associated with the operation of a city's skateboard park or area, much of the risk can be reduced through proper supervision and maintenance. All skateboard area employees should be given an orientation training program to familiarize them with the operational standards of the skateboard park, as well as the maintenance requirements, safety standards, and rules of the skateboard park. This training should be fully documented and retained on file for each employee.

The TML Pool does not represent that these recommendations identify and address all of the unsafe or hazardous conditions associated with the operation of the skateboard area, nor do we represent that implementing our recommendations is the best possible solution and that no injury or financial loss will occur if they are followed. It is our opinion that implementing the recommendations should reduce the potential for accidents.

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