Employee Safety Committees

An alarming number of resorts have discontinued regular safety committee meetings and in some cases have disbanded their loss prevention staff altogether.

Not many years ago when losses were much higher, safety committees met regularly to address the cause of accidents and then created solutions to prevent them. Resorts hired or trained risk management staff to oversee and provide a direct link to upper management. These risk management and loss prevention programs produced excellent results.

Every business looks for ways to trim expenses and when losses are reduced to very controllable levels, these loss prevention programs didn’t look necessary any longer. Additionally, the people who paved the way in developing these programs often moved up in the administrative ladder, took on additional responsibilities and didn’t have time for their safety program responsibilities, or moved on to a larger resort that needed their training and talent.

The pendulum has swung back again to increased injuries and rising experience modifiers, leaving some resorts to wonder what happened. The solution is simple—prevent the loss. Golf is also simple; just put the ball in the hole—one doesn’t put their golf clubs aside and think their golf game will not suffer. The same goes for loss prevention and risk management programs. Dust off those safety programs! What better way to bring ownership for safety to all departments than to involve them in the Safety Committee!

Lift Operations Safety

Someone once said there are two kinds of lift operators: one who has been hit by a chair and the other is one who will be hit by a chair!

- All lift attendants should be required to go through the company lift-training program.
- Shovel and grade the lift ramp before starting the chairlift.
- Slow chairs to shovel and grade lift ramp during business hours.
- Always be aware of the positions of moving chairs and stay clear of their pathways.
- All employees/lift operators must know and follow the operating procedures of that particular lift.
- Know and follow your company procedures when required to ski or snowboard as part of your job (such as going from one work station to another).
- Be alert for the safety of your guests and for your own safety!

“The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.”

- Michelangelo