A Risk Management Bulletin

Resort to Safety
July 2010

Getting into gear: Mountain biking
As your resort gears up for mountain biking here are some quick tips to help make it a successful summer!

Guests
- What activities share your mountain and trails (hiking, disc golf, cross-country mountain biking, downhill mountain biking, horseback riding, etc.)?
- Is your trail system set up to accommodate and warn so all your users can have an enjoyable experience?
- Who are your mountain bikers and does your bike trail system meet their ability levels?

Trail Maintenance
- Develop a system for opening/sweeping trails during and at the end of the day.
- Have a trail construction and maintenance plan; keep logs.
- Mark trails and features for difficulty and notify guests about what to expect on each trail.

Equipment/gear rentals
- Rent bikes and gear that are terrain- and user-appropriate.

- Ensure rental forms and releases are signed.
- Bike techs should be trained and/or manufacturer-certified.
- Keep maintenance logs for all work done on bikes.
- Check all equipment and gear every time it comes in and goes out.
- Have post-accident procedures.

Guest education
Provide guests with:
- Mountain bike checklist to help guests ensure they are ready to go.
- Mountain bike-specific trail maps.
- Mountain biker responsibility code.

Nature
- Weather (especially high winds and lightning). Monitored weather stations, warning education and system, shelter, transportation, and hydration stations.
- Animals (domestic and wild). Dog policy, trash collection, guest education and signage, and forest service resources.

Lift operations
- Have plan for foot traffic and downloading.
- Have a procedure for loading and unloading bikes.
- Review procedures for lift incidents and summer lift evacuations.

Accidents
- Make sure medical staff can access and has means to transport an injured guest on all terrain.
- Communicate with local EMS to coordinate response and pick-up points.
- Conduct complete accident investigations.

Enjoy summer – and stay safe!
For more information, contact Helen Richards, 800-528-7730 • helen.richards@wellsfargo.com

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Prepared by the Sports & Recreation Division of Wells Fargo Special Risks, Inc.

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