

Risk Management Exercise - Name **Doc the Tiger**

Risk Survey Location: Tiger Springs State Park

I. FIRST HAZARD

A. Risk Identification:

1. Describe the hazard/risk: Tiger Springs State Park users can do snorkeling, swimming, and tubing in designated areas of the Tiger River. There are two points where swimmers can get into the river; Mid-point Launch and Dampier's Landing during the off-season. At Dampier's Landing, I found that the footstep to reach the water was too slippery. There was a signage "CAUTION: SLIPPERY SURFACE" on the way to the dock. However, there is a possibility that swimmers, especially small children, cannot but fall down when they try to get into the water. I actually met an 11 year old girl and her father while inspecting the hazard. The father told me that he was aware of the slippery surface (noticed by the signage), and was careful enough to make his daughter to be safe on the dock, but his daughter eventually slipped on the footstep and fell into the water. She was about to be carried away by the water and the father barely picked up her.



Figure 1. Slippery Footstep



Figure 2. Caution Signage 'Slippery Surface'

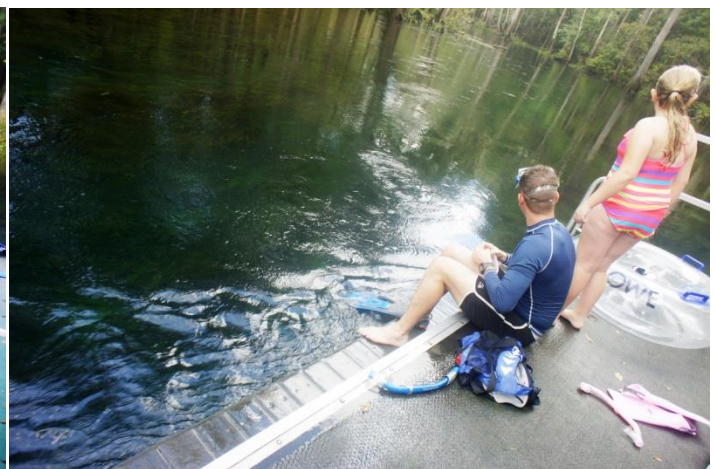


Figure 3. People who have experience small accident

2. Describe the type of injury and lawsuit (identify specific cause of action) that could result: Because of the slippery footstep, park users might fall down. One might enter the water unexpectedly and therefore die by drowning. One might get a concussion by falling down and hit his head on the edge of the footstep. The state of Florida and park administrator can be charged because they breach the duty of care. They should have put more detailed warning sign (e.g., Due to the highly slippery footstep, kids should be accompanied by adults). Also, the constructor of the dock can be charged due to the negligent action. The constructor produces a defective

product (*unreasonably slippery footstep*). They should have used other material which is less slippery even though it's wet.

3. Specifically identify & describe the standard (e.g., industry standard/guideline, statute/regulation, agency policy, manufacturer instruction, case precedent) of care violated or that may be applied (attach documentation):

There is a state rule for a construction of swimming pools and bathing place as below. Though the case I stated is about state park, it is a kind of swimming place for public so that the rules for pool wet deck material can be benchmarked.

Florida Administrative Code

CHAPTER 64E-9 PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHING PLACES

Pool wet decks shall have a minimum unobstructed width of four feet around the perimeter of the pool, pool curb, ladders, handrails, diving boards, diving towers, and slides, **shall be constructed of concrete or other nonabsorbent material having a smooth slip resistant finish** and shall be uniformly sloped at a minimum of two percent to a maximum of four percent away from the pool or to deck drains to prevent standing water. **Textured deck finishes that provide pitting and crevices of more than three-sixteenths inch (3/16") deep that accumulate soil are prohibited.**

B. Risk Classification:

1. How severe could this potential injury be? (1=minor; 5=very serious) 1 2 3 ④ 5
2. How often could this potential injury occur? (1=rarely; 5=often) 1 ② 3 4 5
3. Give your evaluation of the total risk: _____ Low **V Moderate** _____ High

C. Risk Treatment:

1. What would you do to reduce the risk associated with the hazard? I would cover the footstep with nonslip pad to reduce the risk and ask outside expert consultants if it's safe enough, even for little children.

2. What other option(s) could you choose? I would also put signage specifying the risk of footstep rather than the current general expression. (e.g., 'Special cautions to stand up the footstep. The footstep which meets the water might be slipperier than the other surface.'). I also put some figures which make the signage more intuitive and easy to understand even for young children.



Figure 4. Possible slippery signage with illustration of people falling down

D. Risk Management Implementation:

1. What would you do to see that your risk reduction plan is accomplished? I will monitor if the frequency of 'fall down' accident has been decreased. I will also communicate the park employees to be well aware of the risk and emergency plan.

II. SECOND HAZARD

A. Risk Identification:

1. Describe the hazard/risk: The signage at the bathroom door said that ‘please avoid touching aquatic vegetation. A small number of swimmers have reported rashes, hives, or other skin irritation that may have resulted from contact with plants.’ However, the place is open water and people can barely avoid to be contacted to the plant. It is necessary for most people to be unintentionally touched by the plant while swimming or tubing. The park administrator tried to inform this by putting signage. However, I saw one on the bathroom on the way out (Figure 6.). The other signage saying ‘don’t touch plants’ (Figure 7.) didn’t inform the possible illness. People might not know anything about skin illness which can be caused by swimming in the Tiger River. The signage (Figure 6.) also mentioned ‘please report it to park staff, but I could not see any of park staffs while I stayed the park for three hours. The medical room (Figure 8.) was locked and no one was there. Though there are not many visitors because it’s off season, the park still has to have at least marginal number of staffs to take care of an emergency situation.



Figure 5. Plants in the middle of river



Figure 6. Signage informing risk caused by aquatic vegetation



Figure 7. ‘Don’t touch plants’ signage



Figure 8. Emergency room closed

2. Describe the type of injury and lawsuit (identify specific cause of action) that could result: As the park stated, foreseeable risks (skin illness such as rashes, hives, or other skin irritation) can be resulted from contact with plants in the river. Without having proper emergency plan, the illness could get worse as time goes by. The illness could have been gone if timely treatment under the emergency plan has been performed. The park and park staff breached their duty to inform the foreseeable risk as well as to be stayed at park in a reachable manner.

3. Specifically identify & describe the standard (e.g., industry standard/guideline, statute/regulation, agency policy, manufacturer instruction, case precedent) of care violated or that may be applied (attach documentation):

There is a Florida Administrative Code about recreational camp saying that all employees should have access to medical care and treatment through 911.

Chapter 64E-15, Florida Administrative Code Mobile Home, Lodging, and Recreational Vehicle Parks and Recreational Camps

64E-15.011 Owner's and Operator's Responsibility. (4) All recreational camp employees and occupants shall have access to medical care and treatment through the 911 emergency telephone number.

Also,

WISCONSIN DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH Department of Health Services published disease fact sheet about 'swimmer's itch' and it explained what can be done to reduce the chances of getting swimmer's itch. It can be used to make the detailed warning sign and emergency action plan. Below are examples that we could implement.

What is the treatment for swimmer's itch?

Some people may get relief from the itching by applying skin lotions or creams to the infected site.

What can be done to reduce the chances of getting swimmer's itch?

Towel off immediately after swimming or wading in infested water can be very helpful in preventing rash development.

B. Risk Classification:

1. How severe could this potential injury be? (1=minor; 5=very serious) 1 ② 3 4 5

2. How often could this potential injury occur? (1=rarely; 5=often) ① 2 3 4 5

3. Give your evaluation of the total risk: _____ **V Low** _____ Moderate _____ High

C. Risk Treatment:

1. What would you do to reduce the risk associated with the hazard? I will put the warning signage more, especially near the river and at the landing dock, including the number of emergency room so that people could reach and ask the park medical staff what to do and where to go.

2. What other option(s) could you choose? Park should also run the emergency room even on off-season as well. As long as there is a visitor, there should be an emergency plan to take care of the possible risk. I will also make the emergency plan (if there is none) or review the current plan, revise it, and make all park staff to be well aware of it. Medical expert would be invited to do so.

D. Risk Management Implementation:

1. What would you do to see that your risk reduction plan is accomplished? I will monitor if there is a written documentation about the emergency plan, especially the care for patients who reported skin irritation after water activity. I will also test park staff to know if they well understand their role when they are reported a skin illness.