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Safety & Risk Management New

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Safety Member of the Quarter

Skip Ford is the Facility Supervisor & Equipment Specialist for the Athletics Department. He has worked for Otterbein University for 23 years. Skip was chosen as the safety member of the quarter for many reasons. He works diligently to support campus safety in the Athletics Department by maintaining safety standards and also assisting with implementation of new safety procedures with all of the Athletic staff. Skip strives daily to keep the athletic equipment maintained and cared for very well. One of his main safety initiatives is helmet safety for the football team. Skip really takes the time to talk with each individual football player to ensure the fit is correct. He listens to the players very closely when they are describing the fit of the helmet. Skip works with the athletic trainers, who assist with the helmet fittings to ensure the helmets are all fitted properly to minimize risk of concussions. One thing Skip is very proud of is that this year the players have new helmets with special padding on the inside of the helmet. This padding has sensors that monitor any impact to the head. If an impact is strong enough, it will set off an alarm with the athletic trainers. The monitoring system keeps track of how many hits occur in the same location of the helmet. Skip also helps minimize liability issues by always assisting the EH&S Officer with addressing building hazards. He also supports the safety of referees and teams by assisting in escorting them with the police officers when games are intense and there may be angry patrons. Not only does Skip serve the campus as a valuable safety member, but he also supports Otterbein through outreach with Walnut Springs Middle School during career day. He loves sharing career opportunities with the middle school kids.

He also keep tabs on the maintenance of the Otterbein commercial laundry system used for the Athletic Department. Skip works hard to keep them maintained and operable. He also handles all the chemical safety in this area, working closely with the campus EH&S Officer to ensure proper use and disposal. And if you attend an Otterbein basketball game, you might see Skip entertaining the audience with his vocal group, “The Voices of Ohio”, often singing the National Anthem at the games.

Pets On Campus

Just a reminder as we start off another great semester here at Otterbein. Be sure to respect others by not bringing your pets into campus buildings. The university has a pet policy to promote professional, safe and healthy work spaces, and thus prohibits pets in any of the campus facilities. The restriction applies to classrooms, common areas (such as the library and campus center), as well as individual offices and student living spaces. Any individual who is assigned disability assistance by animals such as service dogs, are of course, an exception to this policy.
September is known as Campus Fire Safety Awareness month and Otterbein is celebrating on September 28th with Campus Fire Safety Day. Come out and join members from the Otterbein Safety Team and the Westerville Fire Department for some live demonstrations on Fire Safety. Click on the photograph of the doll house burn to watch a short video preview.

**EIIA Campus Safety Audit**

As part of our institution’s insurance property loss control, Aon Global Risk Consulting, surveyed the campus in July to assess a broad range of risk management programs. The review compared our risk management programs to nationally recognized standards, such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fire codes and recommended good practices. One of the highlighted items of interest from the consultant was the fact that Otterbein has developed extensive and well thought-out emergency response plans for situations including fire, medical, hazardous materials, and security incidents. He highlighted the regular training exercises that Otterbein holds on campus with the Otterbein Police, Westerville Police and Westerville Fire Departments, as well as other emergency responders. He said the pre-planning and training will help to provide a well-coordinated response to future incidents. Overall, there were many programs that received the highest rating including emergency response, crisis management, dining services, facilities maintenance, residence life, arts, athletics, sciences and informational technology loss of property and risk management programs.
7 Steps to Improve Campus Event Safety & Security

Campus Safety, August 2017 Edition: Lessons learned from real incidents across the United States

1. Presence and visibility of Law Enforcement
2. Constant vigilance through entire event until people have left the event.
3. Securing the outside.
4. Incorporate several levels of security. For example traffic control, bollards to limit vehicle accessibility into areas, accessibility to emergency exits and clear areas for emergency responders.
5. Advance Communication with Attendees: things like prohibited items to bring in, parking areas, or restrictions, and emergency response information. These can be shared via ticketing outlets, social media, pamphlets, or any other means of communication.
6. Command Staff should review and plan emergency operations for each event.
7. Adopt a unified approach: to ensure all events meet the facility needs and safety and security standards.

Facility Use & Event Planning

A leadership team has been established on campus to improve overall campus facility use and event planning practices. The team consists of members from Risk Management, Human Resources, Facility Services, Police and Information Technology. When planning an event on campus, as most employees already know, you will go to the OZONE under Campus Calendar and fill out a request for the addition of an event, which leads you to the proper form to fill out. The form will be updated to capture more information, as needed for facility use and event planning. The event request will be pushed through a central review process with Risk Management to improve current campus practices and ensure that all facility needs and safety standards are met. The form will also continue to be submitted to the person in charge of updating the campus calendar, as it currently does.

With many lessons learned from campus events, both at Otterbein and across the country, we strive to improve overall operations to not only increase safety and security but also overall business cost efficiency for the University.

SWAT Comes to Otterbein

Otterbein hosted training for the Delaware Tactical Unit (DTU), better known as the SWAT team. We were pleased to have DTU on our campus on August 17th. They ran several training scenarios through the classrooms and other work areas at “The Point”. This training was very beneficial for the SWAT team and they greatly appreciated the hospitality of Otterbein, as well as the businesses at The Point. The team’s main focus of this training was to work with their SWAT canine units to challenge them to respond to incidents, with the scent of people working in the building. Having the normal workers at “The Point” during the training provided this unique opportunity. The dogs and their handlers had to determine and recognize someone working (who was supposed to be in the work area) versus an assailant who wasn’t supposed to be in the work area. There were two dogs training with the team, Figi and E-Sac. The dogs were also learning to work side by side with the robots that the team uses during deployment to high risk incidents. They DTU members also spent a great deal of time training in roles that they are not used to doing, such as someone having to handle the canine when the normal canine handler goes down during a response. Having DTU on campus benefits Otterbein greatly as well since DTU would be the SWAT team responding to high risk incidents on our campus. Getting them on our campus and working with our officers will improve response to any incidents where they are needed.