

MARSH

Campus Day Care Centers

Emergency Response and Liability Safety Concerns



Rich Perry
March 17, 2011

Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.

Straight from the Headlines...

- Beating of Toddler in Florida Day Care Center Raises Questions and Concerns.
- South Carolina Day Care Fire Injures Multiple Children
- Child abducted from Tennessee Day Care Center
- According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, 56 children died in Day Care Centers since 1990



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



1

Today's Agenda

- Emergency Response Plans
- Emergency Response Plan Requirements
- Emergency Response Suggestion
- Life Safety Code Requirements
- Day Care Center Injuries
- Safety Concerns
- Liability Issues



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



2

Emergency Response Plans

As a minimum should include provisions for:

- Fire and explosions
- Severe weather situations
- Earthquakes
- Utility failures
- Crisis management
- Unauthorized entry or child pickup
- Evacuation procedures
- Pediatric first aid and CPR



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.

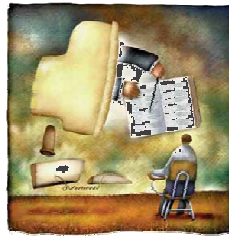


3

Emergency Response Plans

Procedures should address/include:

- Notification procedures
- Drill protocols
- Evacuations
- Interior shelters
- Alternate external safe places
- Head counts
- Staff training
- Staff responsibilities
- Campus safety responsibilities
- Parent responsibilities



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



4

Emergency Response Plan Requirements

- Plans must be readily available to all staff, campus safety, and parents (handbooks for parents)
- Practice makes perfect
- Plans should be audited annually
- All staff members must be trained on their specific responsibilities
- All staff training must be documented



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



5

Access Control

- Assure that only "authorized" persons can pick up a child
- Make sure that access to the children areas is secured at all times
- Have a fool-proof identification systems in place (Biometrics)
- Develop procedures on how to respond should you be advised that someone is no longer "authorized"

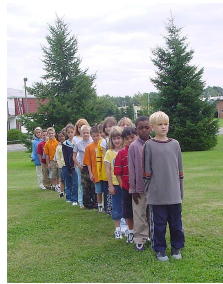
Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



6

Emergency Response Suggestions

- Periodically invite the local fire department to participate in your monthly drills
- Fire extinguishers—training
- Identify and post all shut-offs
- Conduct unannounced drills periodically
- Conduct drills with "blocked" exits



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



7

Emergency Response Suggestions (continued)

- Keep class attendance records and contact details next to room doors
- Place evacuation backpacks in each room by the door
- Conduct regular in-service staff training on emergency procedures
- Know what to do if the power goes out in the building
- Update parent contact information annually or when changes occur
- Use multiple communication methods to parents (text messaging, email, etc.)



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



8

Life Safety Code Requirements

- Occupancy loads should be determined, posted, and enforced
- Panic hardware on exit doors if more than 100 persons
- Bathroom door locks
- Smoke detectors
- Furnace room doors
- Fire alarm system
- Flammable wall furnishings less than 20%
- Fire drills
- Monthly fire inspections
- Daily checks



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.

9

Know your State Requirements

- Michigan—requires quarterly fire drills and two tornado drills per year between April and October plus semi-annual staff training on fire and tornado drill responsibilities
- Missouri—requires monthly fire drills and quarterly tornado drills



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.

10

Day Care Injuries

- Day Care Centers are the locations of:
 - 2% of all injuries for children 2 years and younger
 - 54% of injuries by children 3 and 4 years old
 - 42% of injuries children 5-9 years old
- Playgrounds are the most frequent site of these injuries



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.

11

Playground Safety Checklist

- Make sure surfaces around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or are mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.
- Check that protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
- Make sure play structures more than 30 inches high are spaced at least 9 feet apart.
- Check for dangerous hardware, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.

12

Playground Safety Checklist (continued)

- Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
- Check for sharp points or edges in equipment.
- Look out for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
- Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.

13

Safety Concern Areas

- Electrical exposures
- Hot and cold exposures
- Bookcases, cabinets and other similar furniture
- Slips and falls
- Unsafe toys having detachable parts
- Other children pushing/throwing/biting
- Allergic reactions



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.

14

Safety Concern Areas (continued)

- Choking
- Crib deaths
- SIDS and suffocation
- Cords and strings near cribs
- Supervision ratios not maintained at all times
- Insufficient play space
- Exposure to hazardous objects (coins, balloons, marbles, styrofoam toys)



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



15

Liability Issues

- Definition of negligence
- Day care high standards of care
- Parent expectations
- Disciplinary expectations
- Consumer product safety commission recalls
- State inspections



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



16

Summary

- All child care staff should know their responsibilities regarding safety, security and emergency response
- Practice, practice, practice
- Document, document, document



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



17

Questions?



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



18

Contact Information

Richard Perry
Marsh Risk Consulting
Grand Rapids, Michigan
616 233 4265
richard.h.perry@marsh.com



Marsh—Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.



19

MARSH



Leadership, Knowledge, Solutions...Worldwide.
