

# Skateboard Park Guidelines

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## **Possible Exposures:**

Skateboarders riding in a municipal skateboard facility may suffer injuries ranging from scrapes and scratches to broken limbs to severe head injuries. Personal protective equipment, supervision, enforcement of safety rules, adequate protection or separation of spectators and routine maintenance are needed to reduce the exposure to liability.

## **Recommended Controls:**

1. Ramps should be inspected to ensure that construction is adequate to withstand the usage and load capacity.
2. Modular ramp units should be adequately secured together to prevent movement and separation during use.
3. Ramps should be tested and graded by qualified professional skaters for degree of difficulty.
4. Runs should be marked with signs or color for degree of difficulty.
5. Locate spectator areas at a safe distance away from the skaters to prevent injury to spectators. Install protective netting or barriers if flying boards are able to reach spectator area.
6. Equip indoor parks with adequate lighting, panic hardware on the exit doors and properly marked exit doors.
7. Provide adequate drainage to eliminate water from ramp areas.
8. Post signs at entrances listing rules (recommend helmets and protective gear for all entrants).

## **Premises Liability:**

1. Conduct daily physical inspections of ramps, walkways, parking and spectator areas.
2. Look for:
  - adequate lighting (ensure all lights are operational)
  - condition of ramps (free of gaps, ridges, cracks, foreign material)
  - rip, slip and fall hazards
3. Post safety rules / regulations

## **Management / Supervision:**

1. Conduct equipment checks on all skateboards.
2. Conduct periodic inspections of facilities. Document inspection, repairs and maintenance.
3. Provide safety instruction and education for all skaters.
4. Recommend participants wear personal protective gear at all times.
5. Conduct inspections of personal protective gear.
6. Require first aid and CPR training for all staff.
7. Employ well-trained, qualified staff members.
8. Provide full-time supervision. If facility is not supervised, post signs that clearly inform participants that area is NOT SUPERVISED.
9. Require completion of Informed Consent/Permission Form or Release and Indemnification Form prior to participation.