

## Hotline Case Study: Waterfront Time Injury

During recreational waterfront time, one participant jumped from the dock into the water and landed on a second camper's back. Lifeguards performed the initial water rescue and then the on-site health care provider took over care. In their assessment, the health care provider cleared the spine and determined that their injuries needed no further medical attention. Per camp protocols, the parents/guardians were notified of the incident and medical assessment.

The custodial parents/guardians asked for the camper to be taken to the emergency room for further evaluation and care.

The camp did not feel they could provide a staff member to accompany the participant to the emergency room.

### **Policies and Risk Management — Questions to Consider**

- Does the camp have established rules for all aquatic activities?
- Does the camp have established emergency procedures for all aquatic activities?
- Is there a clear communication emergency action plan?
- Does the camp have a crisis communication plan in place?
- What relationship does camp have with emergency response entities?
- Who is responsible for contacting the camper's emergency contacts? And under what circumstances are they to be contacted?
- What support does camp offer to those who are injured on-site (staff or camper)?
- What is the camp's camper-to-staff ratio requirements?
- How many staff are required for the camp to operate safely and within their allotted ratios?
- Does the camp have a plan if the quantity of staff falls below their intended number?
- Does the camp have a procedure for analyzing incidents to learn from them and prevent them in the future?
- Does the camp have a clear policy regarding transportation of campers- which includes who provides transportation under varying circumstances (including health emergencies)?
- Does the camp have clear health care policies which include permission to treat, parental notification, and treatment procedures allowed under the scope of practice of the designated health care provider(s) for dealing with injuries and illnesses?

### **Staff Training — Questions to Consider**

- Are staff trained to implement the emergency action plan?

- Are health care providers trained to understand their scope of practice, conditions that impact their ability to practice at camp, ability to diagnose, and ability to treat in the camp medical setting?
- Are enough staff trained in first aid to provide immediate assistance when needed and to provide coverage if the health care provider is to be off site?

### **Key Takeaway**

Incidents can happen at any time. There should be a plan in place that includes identifying staff roles, staff coverage, and a decision-making protocol.

### **Resources**

- [Emergency Services and Your Camp](#)
- [Managing Health Services Resources](#)
- [Sample Waterfront Rules](#)
- [Creating an Emergency Action Plan](#)
- [Aquatic Resources](#)