

SAFETY BULLETIN

Spotlight on Camp Safety | Volume 2 | 2006

In the News...

Unsupervised Cabin Invites Trouble

07/2005 — A 16-year-old Counselor-in-Training (CIT) waited until bedtime to enter a cabin and fondle two sleeping campers. The CIT knew that the boys' counselor, who shared the cabin with them, left every evening after the boys went to sleep to join the other counselors around the camp fire.

Peer Abuses Peer Off-site

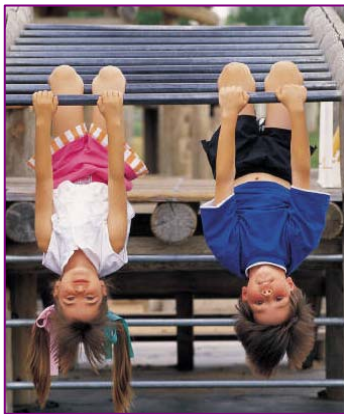
08/2005 — On an off-site, overnight excursion, one boy entered another boy's tent, tried to kiss him, and touched his genitals. When they returned from the excursion, the boy reported the incident to his camp counselor. An investigation revealed that the camper had made sexual remarks to other campers earlier but his counselor didn't respond.

Camp Counselor Arrested

06/2005 — A 32-year-old camp counselor was arrested after a mother discovered e-mails from the counselor on her daughter's computer. The e-mails made reference to alcohol, pornography, and secluded locations on the campgrounds where the counselor took the camper. Other youths are being questioned.

Safety Tips

Let's take a look at how these incidents may have been prevented!



use a supervisor to make random unannounced checks.

1. Don't permit counselors to leave the cabins after the kids fall asleep. Campers learn this routine quickly and can pretend to be asleep, just waiting for opportunities to be unsupervised. If you only have one counselor in a cabin,

2. Remember that CITs are campers, not staff: they cannot be counted in your staff ratio, they must never be placed in charge of other children, and most of all, they must be supervised at all times.
3. Off-site and overnight activities and free time require extra structure and supervision because kids will be excited, the environment will be unfamiliar, routines will be disrupted, and counselors will be distracted.
4. Kids who use sexual talk or gestures may be at higher risk to act out sexually. Teach your campers that your camp has zero tolerance for such actions, teach your counselors to respond immediately, and report all incidents to a supervisor.
5. Require that e-mails from counselors to campers be sent from a camp computer with a copy to a supervisor and that written correspondence be on a postcard, not in a sealed envelope. Let parents know your communication policy.

6. Make isolated or unsupervised areas off-limits and monitor them frequently. Don't let kids go back to their cabins at unscheduled times. Don't allow them to enter

wooded or distant locations except in groups and with supervision. Keep your eyes open for evidence of contraband.

Safety Tools

Camp Risk Assessment™

Want to know where abuse might happen at your camp and what you can do to prevent it? Praesidium's Risk Assessment™ can do this for you! Our camp experts will observe your camp in action, review your policies and procedures, interview your camp managers and staff, and provide you with a detailed action plan.

Camp Abuse Prevention Training

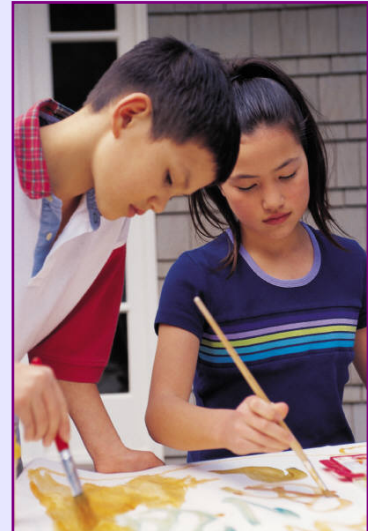
Praesidium can teach your camp counselors and supervisors exactly what they need to know to prevent an incident of abuse caused by an adult or by another camper at your camp. No theory. No boring lectures. We use videos, role-play exercises, and challenging activities to change on-the-job behavior.

Armatus® Internet-based Training for Camp

Have your counselors complete their camp abuse prevention training on-line before they get to camp! All they have to do is logon and complete the course, "How to Keep Your Camp Safe." That way, when they show up, you'll know they all have the same basic information and you can use your face-to-face time to discuss how they can use what they know at your camp!

For more information about Praesidium's services for camps, contact us at 800.743.6354 or info@PraesidiumInc.com.

An added bonus...if you're insured through The Redwoods Group, contact your Redwoods representative at 800.463.8546 to discuss our preferred pricing agreement.



With two decades of experience, Praesidium is the national leader in abuse risk management. We offer a full range of risk management and loss control products and services to help you protect those in your care from abuse and to preserve trust in your organization. Call us today at 800.743.6354 for more information.



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