

Module 3 Assignment – Facility Risk Management

Nic Doherty

Tusculum University

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Dr. Nick Davidson

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Facility Risk Management

Guaranteed Rate Field, home of the Chicago White Sox, was opened in April 1991 as the new Comiskey Park. It was renamed U.S. Cellular Field in 2003, then renamed again in 2016 to its current name (Guaranteed Rate Field History & Dimensions, 2024).

On August 25, 2023, a shooting occurred mid-game in the outfield seats at Guaranteed Rate Field, injuring two women. Rumors stated that the gun was snuck past metal detectors by one of the women who were injured, then it was later accidentally discharged, though this was later disproven. The police went back and forth on whether it was possible for the shooting to have happened outside the ballpark. It remains unsolved to this day (Hernandez, 2023).

The shooting occurred in the fourth inning of the game. Police originally called for the game to be suspended, but then allowed it to go on to not cause panic. After the event, security footage of all fans sitting in the outfield was analyzed and nobody had any security triggers when they entered the stadium (Haeberle, 2023).

The decision to allow the game to continue was a bad one. If this had been an active shooter situation, there would have been a stadium full of sitting ducks, which would have turned into a stadium full of panicked patrons. Ideally, the game would have been stopped for however long it was needed to assess that the situation was no longer dangerous and provide medical attention to the two women who needed it. If the situation had become more dangerous, the ushers, along with the police, would hopefully be trained to direct traffic to exits.

The other mistake they made was only analyzing the footage of the fans sitting in the outfield. While it would be cumbersome to check every fan in attendance, if someone snuck a gun in the stadium, they could have handed it off to someone in a different section, or a staff member could have brought it in. A type of training they could do for their front entrance staff is to do frequent audits, every time they have an event. Have trusted supervisors and staff try to get banned

material through the gates to make sure the front entrance staff are staying sharp and looking for things.

The Hagerstown Flying Boxcars are a new Atlantic League Professional Baseball team that opened their stadium, Meritus Park, in May 2024 in Hagerstown, Maryland (Leval, 2024). They also host community events like Thirsty Thursdays, Boxtoberfest, Stryker's Spooktacular, Grinch Breakfast, and are available for renting out for events (Offseason Events, 2024; Non-Baseball Event Rates, 2024). Unfortunately, after their home opener, a member of their staff had a heart attack and passed away (Farrell, 2024). This is not a risk management incident, but for months afterward, the AED in the suites was never replaced. If something else had happened that season, it could have resulted in another death or possibly a lawsuit. A new AED should have been purchased immediately, and if the funds for it weren't available, the general manager would need to look through the budget.

Pioneer Park is home to the Tusculum Pioneer baseball team and Greeneville Flyboys. It was built in 2004, originally for the Astros Rookie Appy League team, then the Reds in 2020. In 2021, the Appy league became a collegiate league, which is when the Flyboys started using the park. Since it's conveniently located on Tusculum University's campus, the University's baseball team has benefitted from using it (Aufforth, 2022).

At some point during the Appy League's history, while it was under the Astros' control, a patron fell over a grate near the entrance and injured himself. This resulted in a lawsuit (Todd Ireland, personal connection, 13 November 2024). This could have been prevented with safety checks.

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