



Risk Management Review Services

The outdoor education and recreation industry has learned a tremendous amount about managing safety and liability issues over the past twenty-five years. Unfortunately, few organizations are able to take full advantage of this growing risk management expertise.

OSI has created a paradigm shift in outdoor program risk management. This shift allows outdoor organizations of any size access to world-class risk and program management resources. This frees program administration to focus on other important responsibilities.

What is a Risk Management Review?

A risk review is a systematic approach to assessing the risks within an outdoor program. Often, organizations are unaware of the current best practices or of risk management gaps within their program. OSI's review process provides an objective perspective on these critical issues.

OSI evaluate and makes recommendations on potential areas for improvement in forms, documentation, management, staff, training, equipment, emergency procedures, and much more. Our first focus is on field safety; however we also pay close attention to transportation, facilities, abuse prevention, and legal risk avoidance.

Our review process does not look to standardize everything to take the character away from different types of organizations. When we evaluate practices, OSI is concerned with safety and liability outcomes, not conformance with fixed standards,

Why Conduct a Risk Management Review?

- **Safety:** help prevent harm to participants or staff (most incidents are preventable)
- **Reputation:** avoiding incidents prevents crippling damage to your program's reputation
- **Legal:** be certain you are taking appropriate steps now in case an incident does occur
- **Marketing:** OSI will help you advertise the fact that your safety practices are top-notch
- **Management:** support managers while reassuring senior leadership and your Board of Directors about safety and liability
- **Cost:** Even with insurance the expense to your organization of one serious injury can far outweigh the costs of prevention

Risk Management Review Service

Our review service begins with an online risk management assessment that collects basic information about your program. This initial assessment informs our expert reviewer prior to a site visit (typically two days). Guided by our proprietary review process, the reviewer will interview staff and review equipment, facilities and documentation. This streamlined process is far simpler and more time efficient than any other peer review approach.

The site visit (and the whole review) is a cooperative process that includes discussion of your program's risk management strengths and potential areas for improvement. The result is a comprehensive report designed to help guide your organization's next steps. OSI will assist you up

to six months after the report with any changes your organization decides to implement. Programs that desire on-going support from OSI post-review can opt into our “subscriber” program at a significantly reduced rate.

Online Risk Management Assessment

For programs that are not able to commit to a risk management review, OSI offers an online risk management assessment. A great starting point for tackling risk management concerns, this approach uses information your program provides to assess your organization’s current safety and liability related practices. You will receive a customized report comparing your safety and liability practices with “best” practices within outdoor education and recreation. This report will highlight five areas for potential risk management improvements. Choose to have a full risk management review within a year of the online assessment and 70% of your fee can be applied to the review.

Comparing OSI’s Online Assessment & Risk Management Review Programs

Service	Online	RM
Confidential online risk management assessment survey	✓	✓
Email and/or phone support for survey	✓	✓
Custom report addresses critical safety & liability issues covered in online survey questions	✓	✓
Report addresses full range of risk management issues including unique program-specific concerns	⊘	✓
Meeting with staff to outline process	⊘	✓
Onsite for interviews, paperwork review as well as inspection of equipment, facilities, vehicles and activity sites.	⊘	✓
Review & comments on written documentation	⊘	✓
Assessment of the implementation of written practices	⊘	✓
Preliminary verbal report and discussion on findings prior to final report development	⊘	✓
Use of OSI name & logo in marketing plus listing on OSI’s website	⊘	Three years
Phone support for implementation of recommendations (stand alone review)	Up to one hour	Up to ½ day

About the Outdoor Safety Institute

The mission of the Outdoor Safety Institute is to promote outdoor activities by providing outdoor education and recreation providers with safety, liability and program management solutions and educating the public about outdoor safety. OSI provides global safety management support to organizations of all types operating in remote environments. The Institute combines unmatched expertise in field safety, program management, insurance, legal and medical issues with personalized online and on-site services. Alex Kosseff, who is the author of both editions of the *AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership*, founded and directs OSI. He has conducted over fifty risk reviews.

“The Yellowstone Association has worked with Alex Kosseff several times over the last few years to review and improve the safety program for our field school inside Yellowstone National Park. We always enjoy working with him, and we are never disappointed in the results. I am particularly impressed with Alex’s ability to talk with staff throughout the organization, grasp key issues and constraints, and then recommend improvements which are realistic and achievable.”

— Jeff Brown, Executive Director, Yellowstone Association

“Rarely do you find yourself ecstatic with the management of a complex project, but I am happy to say that ecstatic encapsulated well how BCM feels about the safety audit done . . . by Alex Kosseff.”

— Mark Godley, Executive Director, Big City Mountaineers