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LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN

Corn Maze Safety

A corn maze is probably the most common and recognizable form of agritainment found on farms throughout the country. But there is a lot more to a safe and successful corn maze than cutting paths through a corn field.

Plan the Maze

The design for the corn maze is a key initial decision. Whether the maze is designed and executed by a professional maze company or based on an existing plan, the maze design should address numerous safety issues, such as:

- Clearance from other structures and vegetation.
- The complexity of the maze / customer length of time in the maze.
- Number of employees needed to adequately staff the maze.
- Location and number of emergency entrances and exits.
- Whether a platform is incorporated to observe activity in the maze.
- Whether help will be provided by the use of flags, texts, employees or other means.

Training

Properly trained employees are a fantastic asset to the operation of a corn maze or any agritourism operation. Make sure employees are not only trained in their primary job but are cross-trained as well so that absences do not cause workers to be placed in unfamiliar situations. Also consider giving employees distinctive t-shirts or hats so customers can easily identify them.

Anticipate the Unexpected

Sometimes, events conspire to turn even the best planned corn maze operation upside down. Anticipating what could happen and training the staff on how to deal with these situations is essential. Events that may have to be dealt with include:

- Severe weather (rain/lightning/wind/tornado)
- Excessive heat
- Injuries, allergies and other medical emergencies
- Fire
- Incidents requiring the police (assaults, theft)

Communicate

A maze operator needs to communicate a variety of things to customers, such as:

- Warning people that they are entering a natural environment and to expect uneven ground, rocks, mud, insects...
- Advising customers what is and is not proper attire (ex: no bare feet).
- No alcohol, no cigarettes, no lighters in the maze.
- What to do when help is needed.

By using signs, notices on printed tickets, oral communication and website FAQ's, customers can be made aware of the above issues as well as others.

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