Liability Case Study

Inflatables

The chapter co-sponsored a philanthropic event with a men’s fraternity. The fraternity rented an inflatable waterslide for the event. During the event, the claimant went down the waterslide and collided with a person at the bottom. As a result of the impact, the claimant sustained fractured vertebrae and had to undergo surgery. It was alleged that the bottom of the slide was not inflating properly, which resulted in people piling into each other. The inflatable company delivered and set up the waterslide.

A lawsuit was filed against the sorority, fraternity, and inflatable company. The allegation against the sorority was improper supervision as there was no control over the individuals who were using the equipment.

The insurance company settled on behalf of the sorority for an undisclosed amount.

Issues to address:

- Inflatables fall under our definition of risky activities. Review our position paper here. How does your chapter/organization communicate this information?
- What is your organization’s policy on events with inflatables or other risky activities?
- What risk management policies should have been in place to minimize the likelihood of a claim like this happening again?