



Pink Lady Sunset walkers walking the beautiful coastal paths.

(34308601)

# Safety and health at fundraising events: A guide for charities and organisers

Fundraising events are an excellent way for charities and other not-for-profit associations (eg PTFAs) to raise awareness of their good causes and funds for them to do so many good things to fulfil their charitable purpose, but all events can potentially result in injuries – and worse – and damage for participants, spectators, organisers and charity workers. In fact anyone who may be affected by the event. **Andrew Mills**, chairman of Gosha, explains what considerations should be taken while arranging such events



Events are many and various and can do such a lot of good for the good causes involved. But every single event can also pose significant safety and health risks if things are not thought about in advance and are not arranged well.

## WHY SAFETY AND HEALTH MATTERS

Safety and health are paramount at fundraising events.

A single incident can not only harm individuals but can also damage the reputation of the charity and deter future participants (and those willing to donate).

Fundraisers have an obligation to ensure that their events do not put anyone at significant risk.

By properly managing events, organisers can:

- Protect everyone involved.
- Minimise potential liability to others: Guernsey's largest personal injury award is over £14m.
- Enhance reputation and trust in the organisation.
- Encourage future support and donations.

## IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL RISKS

Fundraising events can pose a range of safety and health risks, including:

- Physical injuries: those attending may be at risk of injuries from physical activities, such as walking, running, cycling, or triathlon events.
- Spectator control: crowds can pose risks, such as crushing, tripping or falling.
- Weather conditions: weather conditions, such as heat, cold, or rain, can pose risks to participants and spectators.
- Medical emergencies: those attending may experience a variety of health challenges such as heart attacks, strokes, or allergic reactions.

## MITIGATING RISKS

Organisers should:

- Conduct a risk assessment: which is simply looking ahead to identify potential hazards and doing something about them. Identify potential risks and mitigate or eliminate them.
- Develop an emergency plan: what will happen if something goes wrong and someone is hurt. And learn from and do something about any near misses which occur.
- Provide safety information to participants



Steve Sarre, Lihou Island warden, ensures everything is in place for the Lihou Island Duck Race. (34308605)

and volunteers about potential risks and how to stay safe.

- Ensure adequate supervision is in place (such as marshalls and guides) and responsible people are on hand to act if something goes wrong
- Ensure that there are sufficient staff and volunteers to manage the event and respond to emergencies which may arise.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH

Here are some best practices for safety and health at fundraising events:

- Work with public authorities, such as police, fire service and St John, to ensure that the event is safe and well-managed.
- Provide medical support: ensure that medical support is available on site, including first aid stations and emergency medical personnel.
- Use safety equipment: use safety equipment, such as cones, barriers, and signs, to manage the event and prevent accidents.
- Communicate with participants: give clear information to participants about the event, including safety procedures and emergency contact details.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF EVENT PLANNING

Event planning is critical to ensuring safety and health at fundraising events. Or-

ganisers should:

- Develop a detailed event plan: provide the event schedule, layout, and logistics.
- Identify potential risks: do a risk assessment to identify potential safety and health risks.
- Develop an emergency response plan: plan for emergencies, including medical emergencies and event control issues.

Safety and health are critical components of any fundraising event.

By prioritising safety and health, charities and other fundraisers can protect participants and volunteers, minimise liability, and enhance their reputation.

By following best practices and taking a proactive approach to safety and health, fundraisers can ensure that their events are successful and safe.

## MORE GUIDANCE

The Health and Safety Executive gives excellent event organisation and management guidance at [www.hse.gov.uk/event-safety/running.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/event-safety/running.htm)

There is useful guidance from [www.thepurpleguide.co.uk](http://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk)

And finally, Gosha gives free membership to charities and not-for-profit organisations in Guernsey - see [www.gosha.org.gg](http://www.gosha.org.gg).

We wish you much success in your fundraising endeavours.

◆ [www.gosha.org.gg](http://www.gosha.org.gg)