



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** General Purposes Committee **Date:** May 31, 2018  
**From:** Cecilia Achiam, MCIP, BCSLA **File:** 12-8275-01/2018-Vol  
 General Manager, Community Safety 01  
**Re:** **UBCM Resolution - Safety Regulations for Trampoline Parks**

### Staff Recommendation

That the proposed UBCM resolution titled “Safety Regulations for Trampoline Parks” be submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities as outlined in the staff report titled “UBCM Resolution - Safety Regulations for Trampoline Parks”, dated May 31, 2018, from the General Manager of Community Safety.

Cecilia Achiam, MCIP, BCSLA  
 General Manager, Community Safety  
 (604-276-4122)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>
Community Social Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>  CT
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 	

## Staff Report

### Origin

During the May 8, 2018 Planning Committee meeting the following staff referral was made:

- (1) That staff examine the City's business licence bylaws to ensure that particular businesses comply with industry standards prior to the issuance of a business licence and report back; and*
- (2) That staff prepare a resolution for submission to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for consideration calling for provincial regulations for trampoline parks to comply with current ASTM International standards and report back.*

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

*Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.*

### Findings of Fact

Earlier this year, there was a tragic accident at a trampoline park business in Richmond. Review of the circumstances leading to the accident has prompted regulators to consider implementing safety standards for trampoline parks that would prevent other accidents from occurring in the future.

Vancouver Coastal Health is recommending that Technical Safety BC (TSBC), the organization who oversees the safe installation and operation of technical systems and equipment, assume regulatory responsibility over trampoline parks in the province (see letter given as Attachment 1). TSBC has further responded to say that they will be initiating review of international standards, including consultation with the industry. In the meantime, Vancouver Coastal Health has asked the City of Richmond to consider requiring trampoline parks to comply with ASTM International standards (see letter given as Attachment 2).

### Analysis

ASTM Standard F2970, titled the "Standard Practice for Design, Manufacture, Installation, Operation, Maintenance, Inspection and Major Modification of Trampoline Courts" is a very detailed list of requirements and standards. Many of the requirements relate to component design and material composition of springs, bed design, fabric and supporting structures. Australia and several states in the US have passed legislation for trampoline parks that are consistent with this standard.

While ASTM Standard F2970 is very comprehensive, City of Richmond staff would not have the technical knowledge to be able to confirm compliance with these requirements. Requirements of this nature are better suited with a province-wide, technical authority such as TSBC.

In order to support the recommendation from Vancouver Coastal Health it is recommended that the City of Richmond forward the following resolution to UBCM:

Safety Regulations for Trampoline Parks

WHEREAS the incidence of injury at trampoline parks is increasing and there are no safety standards or operational requirements in the Province of BC;

AND WHEREAS; several jurisdictions in North America and Australia impose safety standards for the construction, maintenance and operation of trampoline parks;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Province implement safety standards for trampoline parks and that Technical Safety BC assume regulatory responsibility for the safe installation and operation of all trampoline parks in the province.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

While many jurisdictions in North America have safety standards for trampoline parks, British Columbia remains a jurisdiction without standardized requirements. It is recommended that the City of Richmond forward the UBCM resolution as given in this report so that regulations can be implemented for all trampoline parks in the Province.



Carli Edwards, P.Eng.  
Manager, Community Bylaws and Licencing  
(604-276-4136)

CE:ce

- Att. 1: Letter from Patricia Daly, Vancouver Coastal Health to Technical Safety BC
- 2: Letter from Meena Dawar, Vancouver Coastal Health



Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

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26 March 2018

Ms. Catherine Roome  
 President and CEO  
 Technical Safety BC  
 Suite 600 – 2889 East 12th Avenue  
 Vancouver, BC V5M 4T5

By email: [Catherine.Roome@technicalsaftybc.ca](mailto:Catherine.Roome@technicalsaftybc.ca); [Bo.Feng@technicalsaftybc.ca](mailto:Bo.Feng@technicalsaftybc.ca)

**Re: It's time to develop and implement regulatory standards for trampoline parks in BC**

Trampolines were originally designed as a training tool for gymnasts and other athletes to be used under closely supervised conditions; their use as a recreation device in indoor parks is a relatively new and expanding commercial enterprise. Though these parks promise recreation and physical activity opportunities for BC residents, access to strenuous physical activity and acrobatic stunts for untrained visitors in a primarily unsupervised and unregulated environment is troubling.

In follow up to the recent tragic fatality at Extreme Air Park in Richmond, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has conducted an analysis of trampoline-park associated injuries presenting to VCH emergency departments, examined the medical literature, reviewed the available international standards for trampoline parks, and identified jurisdictions regulating the parks. The purpose of this communication is to share our insights and to recommend safety standards for this industry.

Our analysis shows that in comparison to backyard trampolines, injuries acquired at trampoline parks are more likely to involve youth and adults > 15 years of age, result in more severe injuries (fractures), and are more likely to involve the back and neck (which have the potential to result in catastrophic spinal injuries). It is important to note that our analysis of data in our region does not capture more severe injuries among children and youth that would normally present to BC Children's Hospital. Research from the United States demonstrates a rapid increase in number of injuries associated with trampoline parks; these are more likely to be severe and warrant hospitalization<sup>i</sup>. In general, these findings are consistent with those reported from Australia<sup>ii</sup>, Korea<sup>iii</sup>, and New Zealand<sup>iv</sup>.

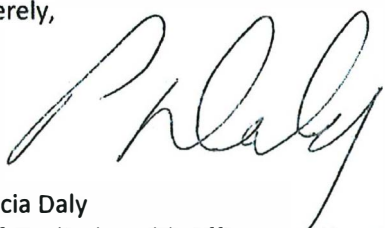
Severe life-threatening injuries, while rare, have been reported in many countries including elsewhere in Canada<sup>v</sup>, Australia<sup>vi</sup>, UK<sup>vii</sup>, and the US<sup>viii</sup>. Due to concern about severe injuries associated with recreational trampolines, both the Canadian Pediatric Society<sup>ix</sup> and the American Association of Pediatrics<sup>x</sup> recommend against children playing on backyard trampolines. The Canadian Pediatric Society states that trampoline parks should not be considered safer than home trampolines<sup>xi</sup>.

Injuries are potentially preventable through attention to safe design and operation of equipment and facilities, training of staff, and education and monitoring of users to prevent and mitigate unsafe behaviours. Unfortunately, trampoline parks in BC and Canada fall into a regulatory vacuum. Such is not the case in Britain<sup>xii</sup> where standards have been created and enforced. Australia Trampoline Park Association requires compliance with Australian safety code as a condition of membership. In the absence of federal standards in the US, several states have passed or have recently proposed legislation governing trampoline parks; these include

Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Utah. In the absence of local standards, the International Association of Trampoline Parks endorses voluntary compliance with the ASTM International Standards F2970-15<sup>xiii</sup>.

Extreme Air has recently called on the provincial government to regulate trampoline parks<sup>xiv</sup>. I agree that safety of park users should be regulated rather than left to chance. I call on Technical Safety BC to fill this important regulatory void by developing criteria for trampoline park design, equipment, installation specifications and maintenance standards. Attention should also be paid to operational requirements including minimum staffing ratios, staff training, critical incident documentation and reporting standards, insurance requirements, mandatory rules for user behaviour and appropriate education and signage for users. Rather than voluntary standards, I recommend that the regulatory standards be a requirement of operation and compliance is assessed and enforced. Urgent action is needed in order to prevent further serious injuries.

Sincerely,



Patricia Daly  
Chief Medical Health Officer and Vice-President, Public Health

- cc. Minister Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
George Abbott, Chair of the Board of Directors, Technical Safety BC  
Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer  
Mayor Malcom Brodie, City of Richmond  
Richard Stanwick, Chief Medical Health Officer, Island Health  
Victoria Lee, Chief Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health  
Trevor Corneil, Chief Medical Health Officer, Interior Health  
Sandra Allison, Chief Medical Health Officer, Northern Health

<sup>i</sup> Kasmire KE, Rogers SC, Sturm JJ. Trampoline Park and Home Trampoline Injuries. *Pediatrics*. 2016;138(3).

<sup>ii</sup> Mulligan CS, Adams S, Brown J. Paediatric injury from indoor trampoline centres. *Injury prevention : journal of the International Society for Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention*. 2017;23(5):352-4.

<http://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/early/2016/07/28/injuryprev-2016-042071>

<sup>iii</sup> Choi ES, Hong JH, Sim JA. Distinct features of trampoline-related orthopedic injuries in children aged under 6 years. *Injury*. 2018;49(2):443-6. [http://www.injuryjournal.com/article/S0020-1383\(17\)30905-1/fulltext](http://www.injuryjournal.com/article/S0020-1383(17)30905-1/fulltext)

<sup>iv</sup> L Roffe, et al. The effect of trampoline parks on presentations to the Christchurch Emergency Department. 2018. *NZMJ* 2018, V131 (N1468):43-53.

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/it-s-been-hell-man-sues-trampoline-park-after-breaking-neck-1.3764836>

<sup>vi</sup> Arora V, Kimmel LA, Yu K, Gabbe BJ, Liew SM, Kamali Moaveni A. Trampoline related injuries in adults. *Injury*. 2016;47(1):192-6.

[http://www.injuryjournal.com/article/S0020-1383\(17\)30905-1/fulltext](http://www.injuryjournal.com/article/S0020-1383(17)30905-1/fulltext)

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2017/mar/14/trampoline-park-injuries-trigger-hundreds-of-ambulance-call-outs>

<sup>viii</sup> <http://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/maureen-kerley-pushes-for-trampoline-park-regulations-following-2012-death-of-son-at-phoenixs-skypark-6663641>

<sup>ix</sup> Canadian Pediatric Society 2007 Position Statement on Trampoline use in homes and playgrounds.

<https://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/trampoline-home-use>

<sup>x</sup> American Association of Pediatrics 2012 Policy Statement: Trampoline safety in childhood and adolescence.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2012/09/19/peds.2012-2082>

<sup>xi</sup> [https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/home\\_trampoline](https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/home_trampoline)

<sup>xii</sup> [https://global.ihc.com/doc\\_detail.cfm?rid=Z56&mid=BSI&input\\_search\\_filter=BSI&item\\_s\\_key=00703466&item\\_key\\_date=820900&input\\_doc\\_number=TRAMPOLINE%20PARKS&input\\_doc\\_title=&org\\_code=BSI](https://global.ihc.com/doc_detail.cfm?rid=Z56&mid=BSI&input_search_filter=BSI&item_s_key=00703466&item_key_date=820900&input_doc_number=TRAMPOLINE%20PARKS&input_doc_title=&org_code=BSI)

<sup>xiii</sup> <https://www.astm.org/Standards/F2970.htm>

<sup>xiv</sup> <http://www.richmond-news.com/news/extreme-air-park-asks-government-to-draw-up-trampoline-regulations-1.23176007>

**VCH-Richmond Public Health**

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24 April 2018

Mayor and Council  
 City of Richmond  
 6911 No. 3 Road  
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Mayor Brodie,

**Re: Local trampoline parks should comply with industry recommended standards**

The use of trampolines for recreation at home or at trampoline “parks” has exploded. Richmond Hospital Emergency physicians have become concerned with the rising number of injuries occurring at local trampoline parks. In follow up to these reports, as well as the recent tragic fatality at Extreme Air Park, Vancouver Coastal Health has reviewed the burden of injuries associated with trampoline parks and international trampoline park standards, both voluntary and mandated.

We have also recommended that Technical Safety BC (TSBC), the BC organization which oversees the safe installation and operation of technical systems and equipment, assume regulatory responsibility for trampoline parks in the province.<sup>i</sup>

TSBC informed us that in the absence of Canadian standards, they will be initiating a review of the standards<sup>ii</sup> of the internationally recognized body, ASTM International, later this year. The review will involve consultation with industry, stakeholders, and results in recommendations to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Regulatory changes may be needed as the current definition of ‘amusement ride’ does not accommodate trampoline parks.<sup>iii</sup> The process will take some months, during which visitors to the two Richmond trampoline parks cannot be assured of their safety.

In light of this, we recommend additional local action. I would ask Mayor and Council to consider requiring indoor trampoline parks to comply with current ASTM International standards. In addition, I would ask City Council to work with UBCM in supporting the call for provincial regulations.

While the City considers whether to oblige adherence to the ASTM International standards, it would be helpful if Council would encourage both local businesses to comply with them *voluntarily*.

Surely, in light of recent events, both businesses will wish to embrace the best industry standards to improve the safety of their customers.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Meena Dawar  
 Medical Health Officer  
 Vancouver Coastal Health - Richmond

<sup>i</sup> Please see attached letter from Dr Daly to TSBC.

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.astm.org/Standards/F2970.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> [http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/13\\_101\\_2004#section1](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/13_101_2004#section1)