

Idaho State University (ISU) arena inspection. Located in Pocatello, ID, ISU is the region's largest university system serving residents of Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Montana and a host of other states and countries. Its location serves to add to the difficulties of maintaining athletic facilities like this one – the northern Rockies can be, at times, a harsh climate for both winter and summer. I'm somewhat surprised it wasn't covered in snow when I went to do the inspection.



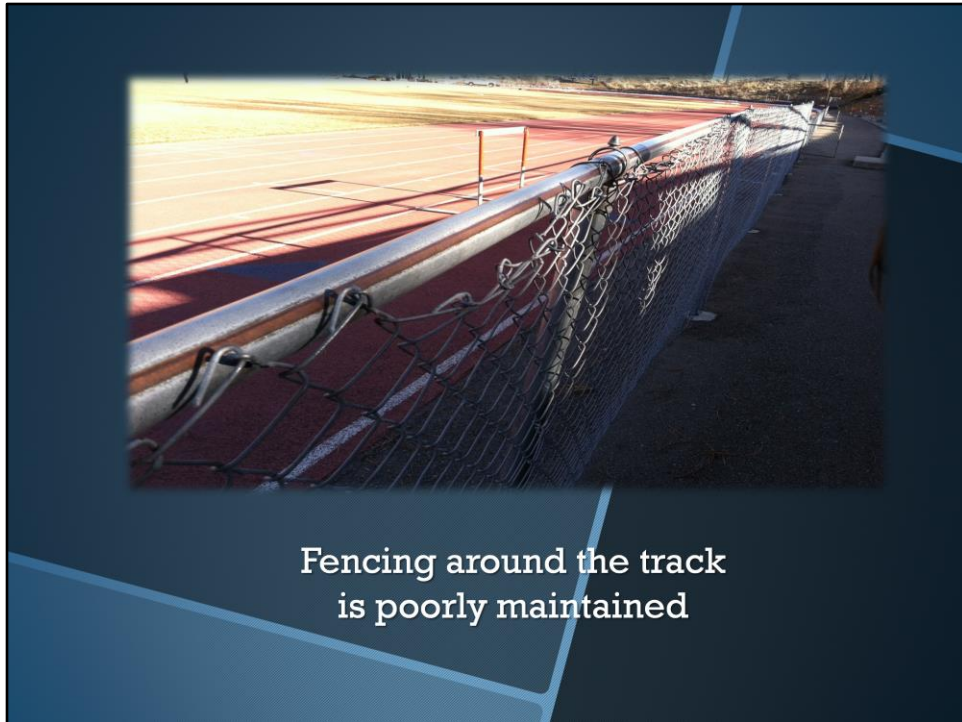
Undesignated walking path
that presents a hazard

While it may not be apparent from the photo, there is a well marked footpath that runs down this hill – the bleacher section of the track is just to the right of the picture and there is a significant grade to the slope. The hazard is that it is a steep slope, with no means to control the walking surface are access to it. It is obvious that this path is used frequently, but there seems to be nothing done by the university to control or restrict its use. The problem is that the path can become muddy/slick with sleet and snow, thus creating a slipping hazard for anyone who attempts to use it. My suggestion to restrict its use would be to construct a barrier to channel people away from it. Should this not be feasible – and surely it would be – perhaps add some landscaping and signage to prevent people for being attempted to use it. Also, on the backside of the hill is a steep drop-off that is of concern to me, but I'll get to that in the subsequent slides.



Retaining fencing that
protrudes into walkway

Again, while the picture doesn't apparently show the hazard, there is a significant one present. Along the main walkway leading to the bleacher section of the arena there is a retaining wall made of stone that is held in place by fencing. This fencing, in many places along the way, protrudes out into the walkway, creating a snagging hazard, and in the case of smaller people, a puncture hazard. This is significant in that it could result in an injury and is easily remedied. All one would need to do is either substitute something safer for the fencing, or do away with it altogether. If these two options aren't available, then perhaps more should be done in the way of ensuring the fencing is well maintained and not a hazard to those visiting the arena.

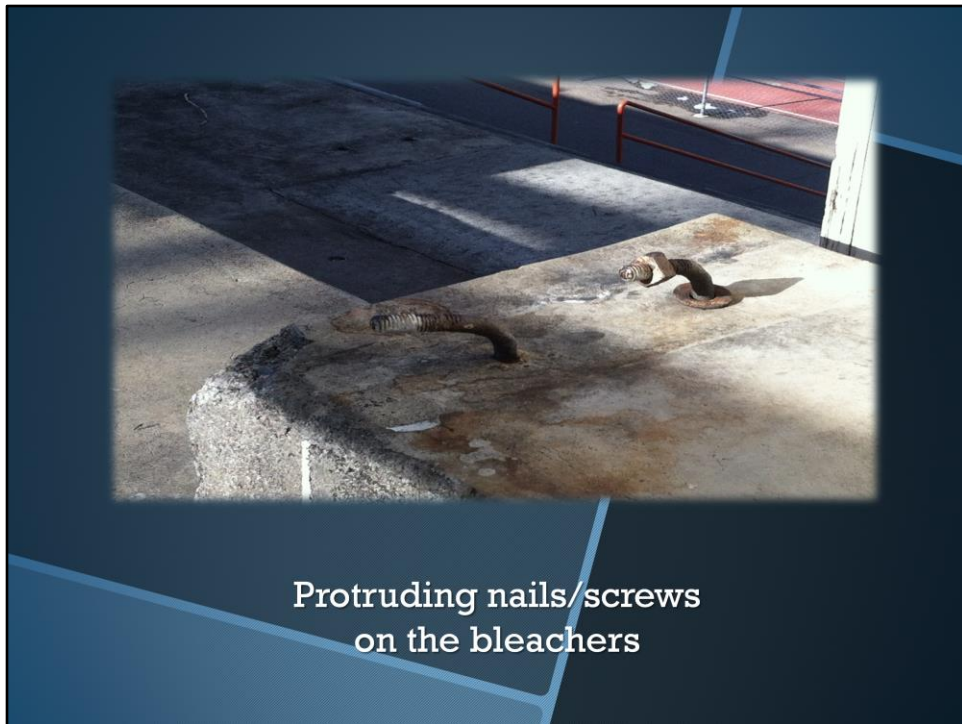


While I don't consider this to a serious issue, it is one nonetheless. The fencing is there for a reason, and because of this it should be well maintained to prevent degradation, which in turn could lead to a puncture hazard. To prevent this from happening, the university should implement a maintenance program addressing the issue – it could entail frequent required checks throughout the year and preventative maintenance as necessary.



Guard railing atop the
bleachers is inadequate

The picture doesn't fully show the hazard here, but there is one present. For example, just beyond the railing is a steep 10-15 foot drop-off onto concrete. The railing is approximately 36 inches tall, with no mid-rail. The problem here is children. It would be very easy for a child under this height to walk under the railing and fall to the concrete below. The bleachers are to the left in the picture – where most people would be facing the track and field – and should a child wander to the edge of the bleachers, they'd be exposed to the fall. To correct this, I would suggest that the university either add more railing or construct a barrier that would prevent those who could possibly do so from falling to the concrete below. Also, perhaps more grounds-keeping is in order to ensure a more suitable surface.



This is an obvious hazard that should not be present at a facility used as often as this. Apparently, the solution to this problem was to simply hammer the protrusions to an angle thought acceptable by those sitting in the bleachers. However, I don't agree with this. They should be removed if they serve no other purpose. Doing this would completely eliminate the hazard and provide a safe area for those to view the activities on the field.



Impalement hazard
along the steps of the
bleachers

This hazard was right in the path of those utilizing the steps of the bleachers. There is no handrail or any other means of assistance when using the steps. I've no idea what it's even doing here, or what it could possibly be used for – it seems there was something once upon a time, but now all that remains is this obstruction that could easily turn into an impalement hazard. It should be removed, immediately. And if this is not an option, it should be returned to its proper function or guarded against possible injury.



Entanglement hazard

Children frequent this arena, and because of this, issues such as this should be remedied without delay. This fencing is in need of repair – it hangs in the walkway creating a puncture hazard and an entanglement hazard for all those who may perchance walk by it. It wouldn't be a difficult fix, simply install the fencing properly and ensure that it stays that way.



Tripping hazard just off
the walking path

This tripping hazard should be guarded against. While the university did take the step of painting the protrusion, more needs to be done. This hazard is literally just off the main walking path of the arena, and could easily be tripped over. They should construct a barrier around it so as to prevent anyone from tripping over it.