



Resolve to have a safer gym in 2017!

I received a call just before the holidays about a specific piece of equipment. The caller stated that a piece of their AAI equipment just broke! As always, I'm concerned with any equipment failure so I started my investigative questioning. The first few questions are pretty standard.

1. Was anyone hurt when the equipment broke?
2. When did you purchase this piece of equipment?
3. From whom did you purchase it?
4. How was it being used when it broke?

With these questions, I can generally figure out if we have a design problem, a use problem, or an awareness problem? Believe it or not, lack of awareness is the number one cause of equipment malfunction or failure. So, I go into my second set of questions.

1. When was this specific piece of equipment inspected?
2. Do you have your equipment inspected by an outside equipment specialist?
3. Do you keep a service log on your equipment?
4. Who is responsible for your equipment log?
5. Has this specific piece of equipment ever been serviced other than hand tightening?

This group of questions along with a few good pictures usually tells me most of what I need to know, and regardless of the reason for failure, we move on to the "repair or remove" phase.

Probably the most important question is, "When did you first recognize that there was a problem?" If the answer is "When it broke", the problem is more than an equipment problem, it's awareness. A few key points to remember are that equipment warranties cover the materials used in manufacturing and the labor used to build it. Warranties do not cover wear and tear regardless of whether it's from use or abuse. All equipment will wear out under enough use.



I've often used automobile service as an example for gymnastic equipment service. The tires on your car will wear out. The speed at which they wear out is based on how you drive, stop, park, and service your car. If you never check the air in your tires, chances are they will wear out faster. If you never tighten the quick links on your uneven bar cables, chances are they will vibrate loose, open, bend, and brake! Sorry, but that's not a warranty problem, it's an awareness problem. The essential point is, neither of these items "just break". We are given plenty of warning signs and chances to fix.



So, here at the start of the new year, perhaps we can add to our new year's resolution list a couple of the following:

1. I will visually inspect all equipment on a weekly basis.
2. I will keep an equipment service log on all equipment
3. I will use a tool to tighten all connections on my equipment on monthly basis.
4. I will be aware of the condition of all my equipment always.

The problem with these easy things to do is that anything that is easy to do is also easy not to do. It's up to you to do those easy things that will service your equipment and make the gym and the kids safer. Simple habits will protect your investment and the kids!

Make 2017 a great year!

Steve

Steve Cook – AAI National Sales Director

Steve.Cook@fotlinc.com

