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The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields Introduces Video Instructional Series

Sports Turf Managers Association Charity Increases Awareness of Safe, Playable Fields

(LAWRENCE, Kan.) – The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone (SAFE) – with the support of the <u>Sports Turf Managers Association</u> (STMA) and the Toro Company – introduces a series of short, instructional films titled *Sports and Recreation Fields, Safety First.* SAFE is the charitable arm of STMA, the professional association for 2,600 men and women who manage sports fields worldwide.

The video outreach program aims to increase awareness and educate parents, players, coaches and volunteers about safe and playable athletic fields. The complimentary videos can be accessed below:

- Natural Grass Field Safety
- Synthetic Turf Field Safety
- Sports Facility and Equipment Safety

The first three videos explain how professionals and users can identify potentially unsafe surfaces and facilities on natural grass and synthetic turf fields, while also providing a helpful sports facility and equipment maintenance checklist. SAFE plans to release additional sport-specific videos in 2016.

"On behalf of SAFE and STMA, we are pleased to offer the *Sports and Recreation Fields, Safety First* videos to help communities provide safe sports and recreational field for all athletes," says Cathy Bradley, SAFE Foundation Chairman of the Board. "The SAFE Foundation and its Board of Trustees recognize the tremendous need in local communities for safer and more sustainable sports fields, and we are proud to lead the effort to better educate sports turf managers and the people who use the fields."

The *Sports and Recreation Fields, Safety First* videos are the beginning of a five-year campaign for SAFE to increase outreach, award scholarships, fund educational programs and create partnerships with community members and industry organizations.

Ross Kurcab, former Denver Broncos Turf Manager for over 30 years and owner of Championship Turf Systems, is featured in the SAFE videos. He is the first person to earn the designation as a Certified

Sports Field Manager from STMA. Dedicated to improving sports surfaces and facilities nationwide, Kurcab is an ideal spokesperson for the SAFE videos.

For more information: <u>www.safefields.org</u>, 800.323.3875.

About SAFE

The SAFE Foundation was established in 2000 to fund research, educational programs and scholarships geared to the sports field profession. SAFE is a 501(c)3 and is the charitable arm of the organization of the Sports Turf Managers Association and works to enrich communities through championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes.

About STMA

STMA is the not-for-profit, professional association for men and women who manage sports fields worldwide. Since 1981, the association and its 34 local chapters have been providing education, information and sharing practical knowledge in the art and science of sports field management. Its more than 2,600 members oversee sports fields and facilities at schools, colleges and universities, parks and recreational facilities, and professional sports stadiums.

For more information: <u>www.stma.org</u>, 800.323.3875.

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