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INFLATABLE BOUNCERS

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

INFLATABLE BOUNCER RISKS

The following headlines* demonstrate some of the risks of inflatable bouncers:

- Eleven-year-old-boy suffers bruises after gust of wind tossed a slide 70 yards at a church festival
- Five-year-old boy killed when he fell off an inflatable and landed on concrete floor
- Several children injured when two inflatable slides collapsed
- A boy and girl were blown in a bounce house across three lanes of traffic

Statistics show that inflatable bouncers have a high rate of injury. A Nationwide Children's Hospital study found that inflatable bouncer-related injuries rose by **1,500** percent from 1995-2010. According to the Center for Injury Research and Policy, **11,300** children were treated for inflatable bouncer-related injuries in 2010, which equals one child every **46** minutes nationally.* The majority of deaths and severe injuries occurred during windy weather when the inflatable bouncers became airborne and flipped over or rolled.

STEPS TO DECREASE RISK

Because inflatable bouncers have a high rate of injury, school districts should assess their risk tolerance before participating in this activity. Districts deciding to participate should reference this list to ensure they are taking the proper precautions:

- Hire a rental company that is insured and has an endorsement to assure coverage and a contract that spells out responsibilities. This demonstrates a commitment to safety.*
- Supervise kids closely when they play in or around an inflatable bouncer.
- Make sure the unit is staked down or heavily weighted down with ground weights or sandbags.*
- When the unit is inflated, confirm there are no visible rips or holes.
- Ensure the unit is fully inflated and does not sag.
- The adult(s) supervising the bouncer should verbally communicate rules related to safe use to all participants.
- Do not exceed the maximum capacity/occupancy at any time.
- Make sure children playing on the inflatable bouncer are approximately the same size.
- Remove any kids who are tired and/or sitting down; they are likely to be fallen on.
- Stop use during inclement weather or high winds.

*SOURCES

- CNN Health
- Nationwide Children's Hospital and Child Injury Prevention Alliance
- NBC News

PACE RISK MANAGEMENT

800-285-5461 • PACE.OSBA.ORG • RISKMANAGEMENT@SDAO.COM