



INFLATABLE BOUNCERS

Recent headlines of Children being injured while playing on Inflatable Bouncers

- 11 year old boy suffers bruises after gust of wind tossed a slide 70 yards at a church festival*
- 5 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 have shown that inflatable bouncers have a high rate of injury. A study conducted by Nationwide Children's Hospital found that inflatable bouncer-related injuries rose by 1,500% from 1995-2010. According to the Center for Injury Research and Policy, 11,300 children were treated for inflatable bouncers related injuries in 2010, which equals one child every 46 minutes nationally.* The majority of deaths and severe injuries occur during wind events where the inflatable bouncers have become airborne and flipped over or rolled.

If Districts decide to participate in this activity here are the top ten items to consider:

1. Hire a rental company that is insured. This demonstrates a commitment to safety.*
2. Supervise kids closely when they play in or around an inflatable.
3. Make sure the unit is staked down or heavily weighted down with ground weights or sandbags.*
4. When the unit is inflated, make sure there are no visible rips or holes.
5. Make sure the unit is fully inflated and not sagging.
6. The adult(s) supervising the bouncer should communicate rules related to safe use, verbally to all participants
7. Do not exceed the maximum capacity/occupancy at any time.
8. Make sure children are approximately the same size while playing in the inflatable
9. Take out any kids that are tired and/or sitting down. These kids are likely to be fallen on.
10. Stop use during inclement weather or high winds.

Data has shown that inflatable bouncers have a high rate of injury related to their use. Due to this, school districts should assess their risk tolerance before participating in this type of activity. Districts still wishing to participate should reference the list above to ensure they are taking the proper precautions. If a district has additional questions regarding best practices, please contact the WHA Public Entity Department.

**Information for this is referenced from CNN Health, Nationwide Children's Hospital and Child Injury Prevention Alliance and NBC News*

All information courtesy of PACE and SDAO

