

Play It **SAFE**

Children delight in and benefit from outdoor play. Make every effort to use every resource to make their experience a safe one. Pay special attention to equipment integrity, play area safety, proper maintenance and consistent supervision, and you will reduce the risk of a tragedy occurring on your playground.

Our **COMMITMENT**

At GuideOne Insurance, we work closely with our customers to find the best possible way of controlling losses by providing them with the highest level of service available. Because we value our customers as partners, we are committed to helping them avoid losses. But, if a loss does occur, our customers can count on us to address their needs. Working as a team, we can protect our customers, their families, employees and property.

If you would like more information on what our Loss Control Department can do for you, contact your GuideOne Insurance agent or call us directly at 1-800-247-4176 (ext. 5050). Working together, we can keep the children safe.



Valuing Customers As Partners

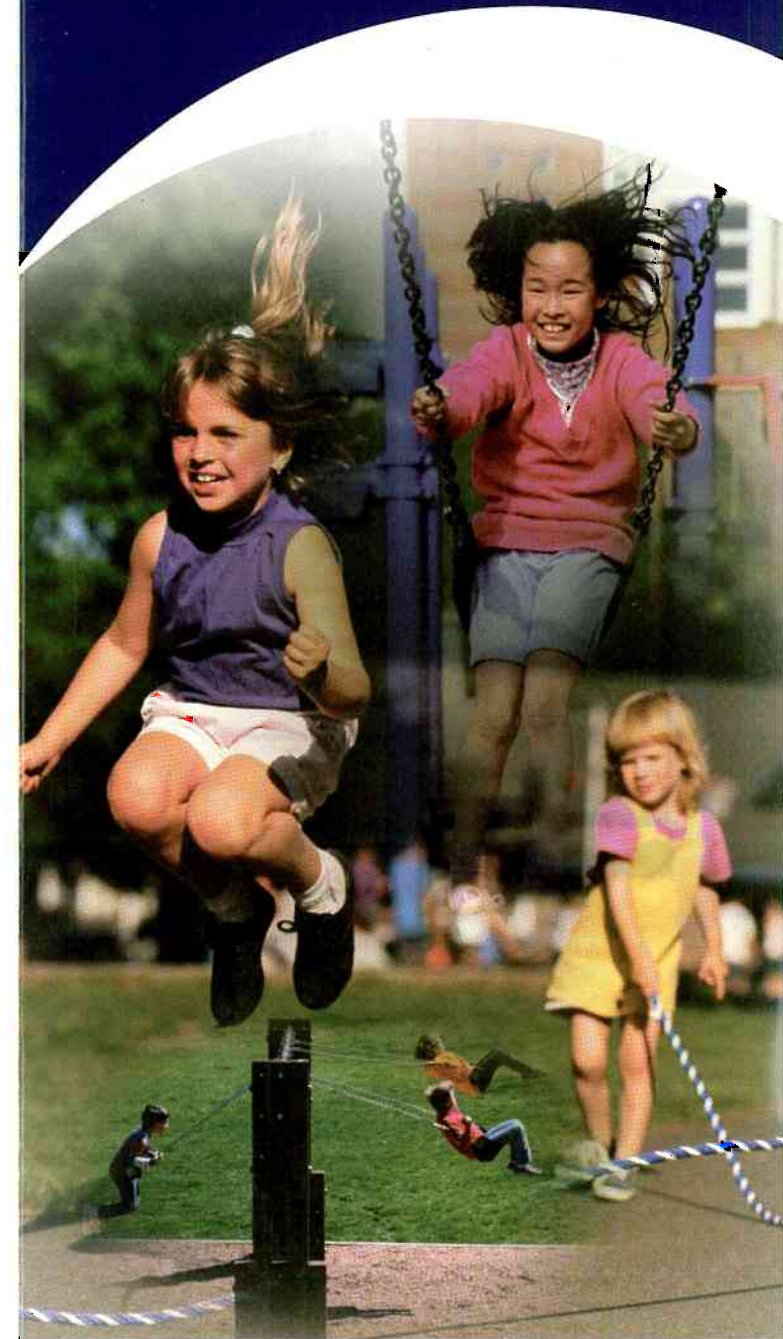
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Playground
Safety



PROTECT the Children

Playgrounds are a place where children can express themselves and be care-free. Unfortunately, the fun of a playground brings the potential for serious injury. Each year more than 200,000 children require emergency medical treatment for playground-related injuries. Some of these injuries even result in death.

Why CHOOSE GuideOne?

At GuideOne Insurance, our Loss Control Specialists will take the time necessary to help your organization identify potential hazards. By assisting you in developing a safety plan specific to your needs, we can reduce the potential for loss and injury. Choose GuideOne and discover why our personal service and commitment to safety makes a difference.

If your organization's facility has a playground, you have the responsibility to ensure the safety of the play area. You can significantly reduce the risk of playground injuries by examining four crucial areas: Equipment selection; play area surface; maintenance and supervision.

Equipment Selection

- Consider the placement of equipment carefully.
- Examine the manufacturer's specifications.
- Consider which age groups will be using the equipment.
- Request detailed product information from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C., 20207. Check its website at www.cpsc.gov or, call them at 1-800-638-2772.

Play Area Surface

- Avoid asphalt, concrete, turf and dirt surfaces.
- Use sand, fine gravel or shredded wood chips, but never on top of a hard surface.
- Install rubber mats or rubber material for the safest protection.

Maintenance

- Conduct general inspections daily, if possible.
- Involve children in the inspection process and encourage them to report any hazards.
- Conduct detailed inspections on a regular basis.
- Promptly repair any damage or hazards.

Supervision

- Children must be given undivided attention.
- A sufficient number of qualified individuals must be present.
- Watch for potential hazards.
- Insist children follow the appropriate safety rules.

Playground SAFETY Checklist

Checklists can be effective in establishing a safe playground. Answer the following questions to determine the relative safety of your playground. A "NO" answer indicates an area which may warrant further examination and action.

General Precautions

- Does a suitable perimeter fence protect children from streets, ponds and other potential hazards?
- Does posted information include proper equipment usage, how to report potential hazards and emergency phone numbers?
- Are trash receptacles provided, but away from play areas?
- Are benches, drinking water and shade available?
- Is equipment properly spaced to provide safe entrance and exit?
- Is equipment design appropriate for age of children?
- Have playground rules or guidelines been developed and communicated with safety as a priority?

Supervisory Precautions

- Is the appropriate number of supervisors on duty during play (the younger the children, the more supervisors needed)?
- Does the supervisor make a general evaluation of new or potential hazards when entering the play area?

- Are staff, parents and children taught the proper use of equipment?
- Is the supervisor knowledgeable in evaluating and deterring dangerous activity or use of equipment?
- Do the children listen and obey the supervisor?
- Is play suspended when equipment is wet?
- Are ball games, skating, biking, throwing and similar activities kept in designated areas, away from playground equipment?
- Does the supervisor watch the entire play area, without the distractions of other conversations, paperwork or activities?
- Does the supervisor have access to first aid, CPR assistance and a telephone?
- Are all injuries reported and documented when medical attention is required?

Maintenance Precautions

- Are maintenance costs for equipment and surfacing included in the annual budget?
- In a written preventive maintenance schedule, do you check for ...
 - debris or litter?
 - damage by vandalism or wear?
 - appropriate depth of loose-fill surfaces?
 - poisonous plants in the area?
 - protrusions, unrecessed nuts, bolts or screws?
 - sharp points, corners and edges?
 - worn-out ropes, chains and cables?
 - potential clothing entanglement hazards (open S-hooks)?
 - pinch, crush or shearing points?
 - exposed moving parts?
 - tripping hazards?
 - unstable equipment anchors?
 - rotting, cracks and splinters?
 - rust or corrosion, especially at surface level?
 - head entrapment hazards (spaces 3.5" to 9")?
 - V-angle entrapment hazards?
 - finger entrapment hazards (holes, missing end-caps or exposed swing chains)?
- Does the play area have good water drainage, including heavy use areas under swings and at slide exits?
- Is there complete documentation of maintenance activities and injuries/accidents?