



# Play it Safe

*Protecting the Public on Playgrounds  
Through Inspections and Maintenance*

The arrival of warmer weather, longer days, and the end of the school year mean increased traffic on your playgrounds. And with that surge comes the increased potential for injuries. Taking a few simple steps to ensure your playgrounds are safe is essential to protecting the public.



## Inspections

- Perform regular inspections of playground equipment and surrounding areas
- Understand your equipment, its functions, and what to look for
- Create checklists specific to your equipment to help document evaluations and inspections -- refer to CPSC and manufacturer guidelines and other resources for assistance
- Take note of identified deficiencies and necessary corrective actions
- Follow-up to ensure corrective actions were taken or repairs were made



## Maintenance

- Plan and budget for routine, preventive maintenance. Replace worn or damaged components
- Remove damaged or broken equipment from service until repairs are made
- Document all maintenance activities

Ensure maintenance staff are aware of national guidelines and best practices. The [CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook](#) is an excellent free resource that addresses common playground equipment and related exposures.

## Priorities and Considerations

**Protective Surfacing** – Proper surfacing materials under and around play equipment are essential to the prevention of injuries, especially those related to falls, which account for over 70% of all playground-related injuries. Ensure proper depths of materials are maintained, specifically under and around high-use areas, such as swings and at slide exits.

**Signage** - Rules and warning signs should be visibly placed around equipment or play areas and should, at a minimum, include information on the age-appropriateness of equipment and that adult supervision of children is recommended. Signage should also include phone numbers to report damage to equipment.

**Awareness and Training** - Consider certification and educational programs for staff, including:

- [Certified Playground Safety Inspector \(CPSI\)](#) course through the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)
- [National Program for Playground Safety](#)
- [Playground Maintenance Technician](#) certification through the Epley Institute for Parks & Public Land at Indiana University