



Playground Safety NEWS

Spring 2001

KEEPING KIDS SAFE

Vol. V, No. 1

Playground Safety NEWS

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- National Playground Safety Week is right around the corner! Find out what's going on and see if your state is participating.
- Do you have pressing questions about playground safety? Check out our new "FAQ" column on page 2.
- *Look What's Happening!* Accessibility issues addressed in Missouri, Hawaiian conference brings about needed playground changes
- Sign up now to receive the early registration discount for our NPPS Safety Schools. More information on page 2.

Mark your calendar!

Upcoming events related to playground safety you won't want to miss.

April 2001

7 - 10
National Elementary School Principals, San Diego, CA

19 - 21
NSACA, Indianapolis, IN

23
National Playground Safety Summit, Des Moines, IA; 800-554-PLAY

23 - 27
National Playground Safety Week; 800-554-PLAY

May

2 - 6
International Conference on Play, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

16 - 19
Head Start, Orlando, FL

June

4 - 7
Department of Public Health, KY

28 - July 1
School Nurses, Phoenix, AZ

August

1 - 4
NPPS Safety School, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA; 800-782-9519

6 - 9
NPPS Safety School, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA; 800-782-9519

For the latest calendar of playground safety related events, visit www.uni.edu/playground/calendar.html

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Playground Safety NEWS is now on-line!

That's right! Now you can find our NPPS newsletter on the web!

Remember a surfacing checklist article we ran, but now you can't find your newsletter? Just go to the web and check out our archives.

Archives begin with newsletters printed in 2000.

Check 'em out @ www.uni.edu/playground/newsletter.html

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Harris Publishing released its first issue of *Today's Playgrounds* this March.

The only magazine developed exclusively for today's playground design and standards, *Today's Playgrounds* will be published six times a year.

Call 800-638-0135 to subscribe.

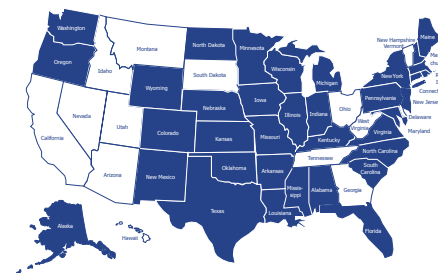
Recent articles by NPPS staff

Thompson, D., Hudson, S., Mack, M. (April 2000) "A Playground Game Plan." *Athletic Business*. 24 (4). pp. 82-88.

Hudson, S., Thompson, D. (Eds.). (April 2000) "Risk Factor Four: Equipment and Surfacing Maintenance on Safe Playgrounds." *JOPERD* 71 (4). pp. 20-24.

Hudson, S. & Thompson, D. (Eds.). (April 2000) "Risk Factor Three: Fall Surfacing on Safe Playgrounds" *JOPERD* 71 (4). pp. 17-19.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL PLAYGROUND SAFETY WEEK APRIL 23 - 27, 2001



The following states (darkened in the map above) have declared **Playground Safety Week 2001**:

Connecticut	Maine	North Dakota
Florida	Maryland	Oklahoma
Illinois	Mississippi	Pennsylvania
Indiana	New Hampshire	Rhode Island
Iowa	New Mexico	South Carolina
Kentucky	New York	Texas
Louisiana	North Carolina	

IS YOUR STATE MISSING FROM THIS LIST???????

Call us at 800-554-PLAY to see how you can help reach our goal of having all 50 states participate in National Playground Safety Week 2001.

Playground Safety Week is soon approaching and all 50 state governors have been asked to join the celebration. By proclaiming Playground Safety Week, states show their support for promoting safe playground areas for our children. To get all 50 states to proclaim Playground Safety Week, we need your assistance. Many states require a state resident to initiate the proclamation process. Contact NPPS for sample letters and proclamations to forward to your governor. To check if your state has proclaimed, visit www.uni.edu/playground/safety_week.html.

This year, we're concentrating on involving more nurses in Playground Safety Week activities. We encourage nurses to take photos of playground equipment so if a child gets hurt on the playground, he can point out the equipment on which he was injured. Also, documenting incidents may help prevent future playground injuries.

We are also encouraging schools to be advocates for creating safe play environments for our children. If your school is interested in promoting playground safety, contact NPPS by phone at 800-554-PLAY or e-mail us at playground-safety@uni.edu.

US Playground Summit to facilitate national awareness

Kicking off National Playground Safety Week 2001, NPPS will host the US Playground Summit in Des Moines, Iowa, on Monday, April 23. This summit will gather top officials from all 50 states representing the Departments of Education, Public Health, Human Services and Natural Resources to address issues and solutions regarding the provision of

GET INVOLVED!

Design and distribute surveys to discover favorite and least favorite equipment, as well as recurring playground problems and injuries.

Send letters to your state governor encouraging them to proclaim National Playground Safety Week, April 23 - 27, 2001.

Create and hang posters in schools and community areas outlining SAFE playground practices.

Complete playground equipment safety checks and evaluations.

Challenge your school to an injury-free week on the playground.

Host a guest speaker to discuss safety on the playground.

safe play environments for schools, childcare centers and community playgrounds. Top officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Injury Prevention, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission have been invited to join in the discussions.

Summit participants will have the opportunity to network with fellow state officials and NPPS, as well as discuss successful advocacy models to promote playground safety. In addition, attendees will review steps for implementing playground safety promotion. Individuals will share their experiences and participants will work together to develop a plan addressing playground conditions within their respective states.

NPPS is honored to sponsor the US Playground Summit. The event promises to be especially noteworthy for its content, special guests and outstanding exhibits. Watch our next newsletter for Summit highlights.

FAQ

frequently Asked Questions

NPPS Program Assistant, Heather Bauer, answers your playground safety questions

Announcing our new FAQ column!

That's right, we'll now be running a new column in Playground Safety News. You're invited to submit your playground safety questions to Heather Bauer, NPPS Program Assistant. She'll then feature some of the top questions in upcoming newsletters. To submit your question, visit www.uni.edu/playground/faqs.html.

CURRENT HOT TOPIC Fundraising Ideas

Is your playground unsafe, old and outdated? Are you looking for ways to raise money to replace current equipment? As you probably already know, new playground equipment can be a costly enterprise. What can you do to help cover those costs?

First, you need a dedicated committee working toward a specific plan. It is extremely important that the committee has a clear understanding of the problems, as well as the direction of the exact need.

There are a variety of resources that groups can utilize in their fundraising efforts. Many fundraising sources are listed at your local library. Foundations within the state may also provide some funding. The best way to electronically identify state-related information is to consider looking at the home pages of your senators and representatives.

Another terrific playground funding source comes from private funds. There are more than 43,000 private foundations in the United States. Annually, they award more than \$10 million. Community, corporate and family foundations are the best places to go for local support. Along with networking in your community, a great way to find foundations is to visit web sites that disseminate grant-related information, such as the Grant Advisor at www.grantadvisor.com, the Foundation Center at www.fdncenter.org and the Council on Foundations at www.cof.org.

Be Creative! Don't rule out joint partnerships. By pooling resources, local schools and parks may share the cost of playgrounds while providing a safe play area for school children and the community. Funding for playgrounds takes committed adults who are willing to work hard to provide a SAFE play environment for children. The investment is well worth the price to make America's playgrounds SAFE!

Iowa Senator Visits NPPS



Iowa Senator Tom Harkin stopped by the National Program for Playground Safety Office in November. Pictured above with NPPS Director, Donna Thompson (left), and NPPS Educational Director, Susan Hudson (right), Harkin (center) believes in advocating for playground safety awareness and congratulates NPPS for the strides it's making to keep children SAFE on America's playgrounds.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2001 NPPS SAFETY SCHOOL

If you have questions on how to plan for a SAFE playground, how to design a SAFE playground, or how to evaluate playgrounds, plan to attend the NPPS Playground Safety School. The School will be offered August 1 - 4, 2001, and again August 6 - 9, 2001, at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

Through this school, NPPS has had the opportunity to address SAFE playgrounds to individuals representing 44 states. Feedback has been very positive and all individuals say they would recommend this school to anyone who wants children to have SAFE playgrounds.

By attending the School, you'll receive a personalized, comprehensive manual; a chance to network with fellow playground professionals; and the opportunity to receive CEUs and/or your SAFE certification.

Sign up now to receive the early registration discount. To register or receive a brochure with more information, contact UNI Continuing Education at 800-782-9519.

You'll leave with more than knowledge. You'll go home with valuable skills, resources and insights to apply right away.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Missouri school district improving accessibility

Mark White, NPPS Safety School graduate, writes to tell us about playground improvements in the Lee's Summit School Districts in Missouri. He has put together a Task Force to improve playground access for students and others with disabilities.

To help every school meet a higher standard of accessibility, the Task Force will take inventory of existing equipment, evaluate playgrounds and work with architects to design better playgrounds for elementary schools. They hope to develop play areas for all children to play together.

One top issue is removing the wood chips surfacing so wheelchair-bound children can maneuver around the area better. They would also like to purchase a butterfly ride, one with springs and built for wheelchair use.

Another part of the playground initiative is to provide additional safety training for playground supervisors and children.



Keep up the good work, team! We appreciate your dedication to creating SAFE playgrounds for all.

Hawaiian playgrounds looking to be more SAFE

Lyn Kalinowski, NPPS Board Member, presented "How to Make Your Playgrounds SAFE" at the Southwest District American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) Conference in Turtle Bay, Hawaii. Lester Chuck of the Hawaiian State Department of Education and Safety Supervisor attended the session.

Lester, an NPPS Safety School graduate, is removing unsafe equipment from schools in Hawaii and has recently received a large grant from the state legislature for equipment replacement.

Lyn also observed playground equipment at several school sites, including Kaupau Elementary School in Kauai, where she discussed safety issues and plans for equipment and surface replacement. She states that it was an exciting and motivating trip.

Thank you, Lyn and Lester, for helping us keep kids SAFE on America's playgrounds!



Ben & Jerry's builds fun, SAFE playgrounds, one pint at a time

Socially conscious ice cream giant Ben & Jerry's has teamed up with KaBOOM!, a non-profit organization strengthening communities by helping them build playgrounds. Inspired by KaBOOM!'s efforts, Ben & Jerry's has concocted KaBerry KaBOOM! — a unique blend of strawberry and blueberry ice cream "totally loaded with crunchy bits of cracklin' candies that'll turn your tastebuds into a ka-zingzingziny playground and fill your head with joyful noise."



Your purchase of KaBerry KaBOOM! helps the organization in its efforts to provide SAFE, fun and accessible play spaces. Pick up your pint today!

Thank you Ben and Jerry's for helping create SAFE play environments for our children! And, thank you KaBOOM! for your continued efforts and support!

@ To learn more about KaBOOM!, visit www.kaboom.org.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING!

We'd love to hear what's happening in your area to promote playground safety. Just complete this form, attach your news and mail to: NPPS, School of HPELS, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA, 50614-0618 or playground-safety@uni.edu. Watch for your submission in upcoming issues! **Please notify NPPS of any address changes with this form as well.**

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____ Phone () _____

Address _____ Fax () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

My address has changed. Please update your records.