



# Playground Inspections of New England LLC

December 10, 2019

Jason Waldron, Facility Manager  
Manchester Essex Regional Schools  
36 Lincoln Street  
Manchester by the Sea, MA 01944

## OFFICE

Playground Inspections  
Of New England, LLC

183 Sheep Pond Circle  
Brewster, MA 02631

## PHONE

508-782-0263

## EMAIL

[nancy@playgroundinspectionsne.com](mailto:nancy@playgroundinspectionsne.com)

- ◆ AUDITS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Party
- ◆ INSPECTIONS – 3<sup>rd</sup> Party
- ◆ PARK AND PLAYGROUND  
CONSULTANCY
- ◆ PARK & RECREATION  
PURCHASING RESOURCES

*RE: Manchester Memorial Elementary [Playground Inspection]  
and Essex Elementary School [Audit – Opinion Paper]*

Dear Jason:

Thank you for the opportunity to inspect the playgrounds in Manchester and Essex recently. The inspections were conducted in accordance with the following documents:

- CPSC: Publication #325 Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines for those who purchase, install and maintain public playground equipment.
- ASTM F1487-17: Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment.
- ASTM F2373-11: Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for public use equipment for 6 months – 23 months.
- ASTM F2223-10: Standard Specifications and Guidelines regarding Playground Surfacing for public use.
- ASTM F2049-11 (2017): Standard Safety Performance Specification for Fences/Barriers for Public and Residential Use Outdoor Play Areas.
- ASTM F1292-13\* Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surfacing Materials Within the Use Zone of Playground Equipment. \*PINE provides a loose fill surfacing inspection only; PINE provides a 'visual' surfacing inspection for unitary surfacing [no testing for impact attenuation].

After your review, if you have any additional questions or concerns, or would like to meet or schedule a call to discuss findings, please let me know.

As always, thank you for this opportunity.

Best,

*Nancy*

Nancy A. White CPSI

CPSI Certification # 38108-0520



Certified  
Playground  
Safety Inspector

**OFFICE**

Playground Inspections  
Of New England, LLC

183 Sheep Pond Circle  
Brewster, MA 02631

**PHONE**

508-782-0263

**EMAIL**

[nancy@playgroundinspectionsne.com](mailto:nancy@playgroundinspectionsne.com)

[www.playgroundinspectionsne.com](http://www.playgroundinspectionsne.com)



Playground Inspections  
of New England LLC

**TO:** Jason Waldron, Facility Manager  
Manchester Essex Regional Schools  
36 Lincoln Street  
Manchester by the Sea, MA 01944  
WaldronJ@mersd.org

**DATE:** December 5, 2019

**FROM:** NANCY A. WHITE, CPSI

**SUBJECT:** Essex Elementary School, 12 Story Street, Essex MA 01929

---

On November 7, 2019, I made a site visit to the above playground. The purpose of my visit was to perform a Playground Safety Audit of the equipment and to assess the playground status as it relates to safety, following the guidelines of:

- **AUDITS – 3<sup>rd</sup> party**
- **INSPECTIONS – 3<sup>rd</sup> party**
- **PARK AND PLAYGROUND CONSULTANCY**

- CPSC\*: Publication #325: Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines for those who purchase, install and maintain public playground equipment.
- ASTM F1487-17: Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment.
- ASTM F2049-11 (2017): Standard Safety Performance Specification for Fences/Barriers for Public and Residential Use Outdoor Play Areas.
- ASTM F1292-13 Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surfacing Materials Within the Use Zone of Playground Equipment.



**\*\*ASTM:** ASTM International, formerly known as American Society for Testing and Materials, is an international standards organization that develops and publishes voluntary consensus technical standards for a wide range of materials, products, systems, and services.

Due to the very poor condition of the playground, and the tremendous amount of visible hazards, I determined an Audit could not/should not be done. In my professional opinion, the playground should have been removed some time ago.

To assess the playground, I have provided an “opinion paper” which is based on a visual site inspection followed by a general report on the status playground and surrounding area. The report comments on the site status as it relates to safety, age, functionality, play value, maintenance and standard of care. The report also includes photographs.

If a Playground Safety Audit were done, the majority of the hazards on this site would be in the Priority 1 and 2 Range. Many of the same hazards occur throughout the structure. Reviewing the attached photos will provide additional information on many of the hazards. I have not indicated the associated section/ subsection number from the guidelines. I will send a CPSC Guide, which is user friendly and informative. The ASTM guidelines are more specific, technical and usually more stringent than CPSC. Certified Playground Safety Inspectors primary use the ASTM guidelines for these reasons.

I have provided a list of hazards to follow, as well as safety concerns (beyond the standard hazards). Hazard Priority Ratings\* used are 1-5 .

**Rating Safety Concern/  
Priority**

**Description Condition Likely to Cause**

Priority 1	Non-compliant safety concern that may result in permanent disability, loss of life or body part. Condition should be corrected immediately.
Priority 2	Non-compliant safety concern that may result in temporary disability. Condition should be corrected as soon as possible.
Priority 3	Non-compliant safety concern that is likely to cause a minor (non-disabling) injury. Condition should be corrected when time permits.
Priority 4	Non-compliant safety concern whose potential to cause an injury is very minimal. Condition should be corrected if it worsens. -
Priority 5	The item has been determined to be compliant with the owner/operator’s operating policy and standard of care. Continued ongoing preventive maintenance is recommended.

(\* From International Playground Safety Institute 2011).

REPORT SUMMARY
----------------

- 1) There is not enough surfacing (or resilient surfacing) throughout the entire playground. Surfacing is not deep enough for the critical fall height for the particular equipment. The number one reason children are injured on a playground is due to a lack of surfacing. The filter fabric is below grade in some areas.
- 2) Many of the support posts are easy to climb/shimmy up. It can be a fun activity if there is adequate surfacing and if the equipment did not encroach on other use zones.
- 3) The use zone for several pieces of equipment is encroached on by other pieces of equipment or vegetation.
- 4) There are multiple places with head entrapments; which means a body can get through but a head cannot - creating a possible strangulation. Openings should not be between 3.5" and 9".
- 5) While there is access, it does not meet current State and Federal Law mandates. Mandates state that a playground be accessed by a sidewalk to comply with DOJ ADA and MAAB.
- 6) Wood materials may have had a natural rot protection; the install year and species of wood need to be identified. It would be helpful to know these particulars and how the wood was 'treated' at the time of installation. Contact the Manufacturer to verify if there are any carcinogenic materials present in the wood.
- 7) Wood rot, shards, splinters, and cracks are present throughout the playground.
- 8) There are not appropriate use zones. There must be 6' between each independent piece of equipment and from all sides of the playground. See photographs.
- 9) Hardware is rusted and in many areas the metal is worn into its connecting piece that will eventually cause it to snap. Moving component hardware needs to be reviewed on a regular basis.
- 10) The structure and the swings do not have the proper use zones.
- 11) Hardware is 'backing out' to the point where a pull would separate attached pieces.
- 12) Wood rot is causing wood to peel off and leaves sharp edges.
- 13) The stainless steel slides have 'thin openings' that can catch clothing.



- 14) Any piece of equipment that has more than a 2" x 2" flat top or is at less than a 4 degree angle is considered 'a platform'. There are some parts of the equipment that have more than a 2" x 2" flat top, and it then changes the use zone as additional space is then needed. An example is the 'short support wood piece' attached to swings.
- 15) The trash receptacles are in poor condition.
- 16) Any space that has between 3.5" and 9" openings are considered 'head entrapments'. The photos show how a 'torso probe' can clear the openings but the 'head probe' cannot.
- 17) Sharp hardware is exposed.
- 18) Open hardware is visible.
- 19) There are eye protrusions from 'backed out' hardware.
- 20) One overhead event is a 'head banger' and were meant for use by wheelchairs and able bodied children. However, wood is not an impact attenuation material for surface and thus non-compliant.
- 21) There are no safety labels or signage.
- 22) The covered rope pull has worn away and the chain is exposed and has become a pinch and cut point.
- 23) The clatter step is too far away from the deck and a foot can easily go through. The rails are head entrapments.
- 24) Deck spaces/ing are inconsistent and fingers can go through and get crushed. The worn wood colors are too muted to see them.
- 25) A belt bridge that crosses from one deck to another is 'pulling down'.
- 26) The black filter fabric/soil separator is exposed and creates tripping hazards.
- 27) Tire bridge tires collapse and are tripping hazards. All tires are full of debris.
- 28) Supports connect to the large posts on the swings are 'bending' and have weakened. Stability has been compromised.
- 29) Only two swings are allowed in a bay, there are four in a bay at this site.
- 30) The swing hangers are rusted.
- 31) The two swings with coated chain are peeling – this causes a pinch, crush and shear point, which is very painful.
- 32) Many moving connections of hardware have worn to more than 50%. The movement wears at the links.
- 33) Many moving parts have 'worn into the wood', thus the wood support stability is compromised.
- 34) Hand holds for position changes are needed through out the playground.

- 35) The 60" overhead has decking on both sides – there should be resilient surfacing.
- 36) The lowest height for an accessible overhead horizontal is 54". The rung horizontal is 51.5".  
There is no surfacing on one side. See photograph.
- 37) Overhead events have 'holes' in the first position; it appears they have been removed. The first rung or ring was too close to the deck below; which could cause blunt trauma to the head if a user/child fell back. There is a ring that needs to be removed.
- 38) Due to warping wood, head entrapments will continue to become a safety hazard, as they get wider.

Hazards are reviewed on 'possibility and probability'. The possibility is usually a higher number than probability. Unfortunately, the Essex Elementary School playground has a very high probability of accidents. They are in fact, accidents waiting to happen. In my professional opinion, I recommend removal of the entire structure and swings.

Once you have had a chance to review the report and the accompanying photos, I will be available for a call or meeting with any parties you deem necessary.

Sincerely,

*Nancy*

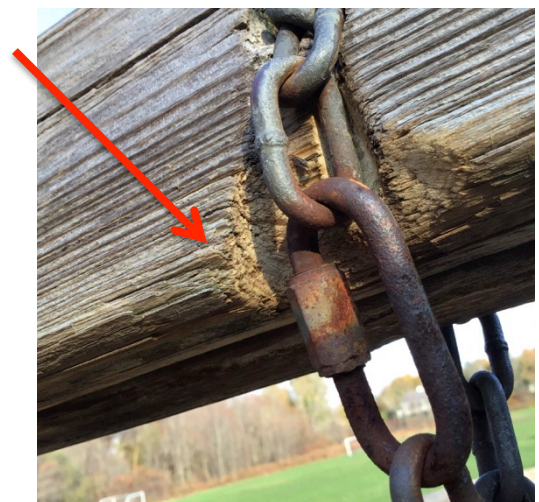
Nancy A. White, CPSI

NOTES:

1. Opinion Paper – A report that will recommend a course of action on the playground based solely on a visual inspection. Professional opinions provided are based on current industry guidelines at the time of the opinion.
2. Neither a Playground Audit nor a Low Frequency Inspection was generated as part of this Opinion Paper. The visual inspection will use the principles of the Consumer Products Safety Commission CPSC, and ASTM F1487 & 1292 regulations and guidelines. These are industry standard guideline documents.
3. Meeting on site, or conference call, at the completion of the Opinion Paper is available upon request.
4. Photographs will be taken as reference and are part of the Opinion Paper.
5. PINE shall have no liability relating to the Playground, Opinion Paper or Professional Opinion/s relating in any way to any loss, cost, liability, damages, claims or suits whatsoever relating to the same unless due solely to the gross negligence or willful act of PINE.



## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS





## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS

Horizontal should be at least 55"; it is at 51.5"





## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



Tire is collapsing.



Distance from Firepole is non-compliant.





## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



More than 2" in diameter on a flat surface is considered a platform/deck.

The 'awl tool' went thru into 4" of wood.



Head entrapment





## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS

Head entrapment



Missing Rung

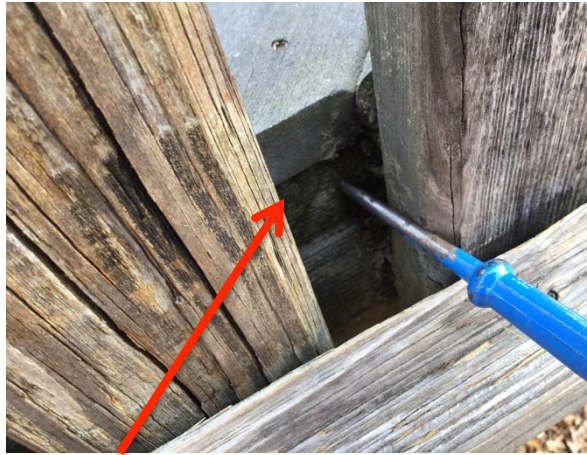


Lack of surfacing





## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



Rotted interior wood





## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS

Use zone is non-compliant – must have 12' between each event. Use zone is Less than 7'



Use zone is non-compliant – must have 12' between each event.



## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS

Use zone is non-compliant – must have 12' between each event.



Broken  
Slats

Splitting Belt

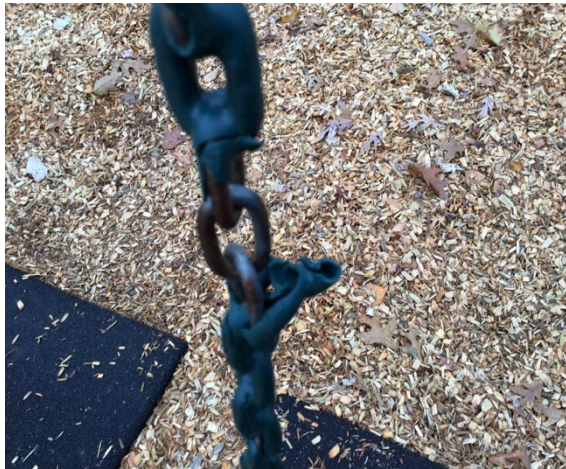


Wood splintering





## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS



New hardware needed ASAP.



New chain  
needed  
ASAP.  
Close  
swings until  
repaired.





## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS





## Low Frequency Playground Inspection ver. 2

### Record: 699

<b>Inspected By</b>	<i>Nancy A. White, CPSI Certification No. 38108-0520</i>
<b>Date and Time</b>	<i>2019-11-07 11:58:35</i>
<b>Name of Park</b>	<i>Manchester Memorial Elementary School</i>
<b>Address</b>	<i>43 Lincoln Street</i>
<b>City/Town, State, Zip Code</b>	<i>Manchester by the Sea, MA 01944</i>
<b>Weather</b>	<i>Damp, Other</i>
<b>Other Weather</b>	<i>Cold</i>
<b>Type</b>	<i>Loose Fill</i>
<b>Loose Fill Material</b>	<i>EWF</i>
<b>Loose Fill Inspection Checklist</b>	<i>Compliant, Not at Min. Depth for Fall Height of Particular Equipment</i>
<b>Unitary Material</b>	
<b>Unitary Inspection Checklist</b>	
<b>Edging Material</b>	<i>Asphalt, Wood</i>
<b>Inspection</b>	<i>Compliant</i>
<b>Material</b>	<i>Steel, Aluminum, Poly/Plastic, PVC/Dipped Material, Rope/Net</i>
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<i>Kompan</i>
<b>Intended User Age</b>	<i>5 - 12 yrs. old</i>
<b>Number of Composite Structures</b>	<i>0</i>
<b>Number of Swing Bays (attached or unattached)</b>	<i>0</i>
<b>Number of Free Standing Climbers</b>	<i>1</i>
<b>Number of Free Standing Riders/ See Saws/ Spring / Tortion Riders</b>	<i>0</i>
<b>Number of Free Standing Slides and Crawl Tunnels</b>	<i>0</i>





## Not at Min. Depth for Fall Height of Particular Equipment

### Photo



### Comments

*This event is constantly oscillating and therefore the EWF will never stay in place. Suggest to purchase 'circular' wear pads to alleviate the gully problem.*

### Hazard Level

*0 - Non-Hazard - For Your Information*

## CLIMBER INVENTORY & INSPECTION

Other	1
Material	Rope, Poly/Plastic, Metal
Other	
Other	
Other	
Other Climber Inspection	Pipe/ posts caps missing, Connectors worn, rusted, Cracked, gaps, missing parts, Other
Other Climber Inspection	Materials are worn, but the structure is in good condition.
Pipe/ post caps missing	Non-Compliant
Connectors worn, rusted	Non-Compliant
Cracked, gaps, missing parts	Non-Compliant
Other	
Additional Photo(s)	Yes
Safety Labels Missing	Hot Surface Warning Label, Surfacing Warning Label, Adult Supervision Recommended



### Pipe/ post caps missing Photo

#### Photo



#### Comments

*Caps are missing.*

#### Hazard Level

*0 - Non-Hazard - For Your Information*

### Pipe/ post caps missing Photo

#### Photo



#### Comments

*The caps to the plastic seats are floating and need to be reattached.*

#### Hazard Level

*3 - Minor (non-disabling) injury/Non-compliant*





### Connectors worn, rusted Photo

#### Photo



#### Comments

*The step connector is rusted and the rubber 'coming off'.  
Replace.*

#### Hazard Level

*2 - Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability*

### Connectors worn, rusted Photo

#### Photo



#### Comments

*See above comment.*



**Hazard Level**

2 - Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability

**Connectors worn, rusted Photo**

**Photo**



**Comments**

The rubber coated foot hold is cracked on both sides.

**Hazard Level**

3 - Minor (non-disabling) injury/Non-compliant

**Connectors worn, rusted Photo**





## Photo



## Comments

*The rope is beginning to fray, but otherwise is in good condition. Ask the Representative if this step/piece of rope should be covered for protection and longer wear.*

## Hazard Level

*0 - Non-Hazard - For Your Information*

## Cracked, gaps, missing parts Photo

### Photo



## Comments

*The 'mid support' is loose and the entire component is moving. The concrete foot has now also been compromised.*

## Hazard Level

*2 - Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability*



### Cracked, gaps, missing parts Photo

#### Photo



#### Comments

*Second photo of support post component that is moving [and should not]. It is a false positive, as children will think it will be more firm than it actually is. This is unstable. Report and address asap.*

#### Hazard Level

*2 - Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability*

### Cracked, gaps, missing parts Photo





**Photo**



**Comments**

*Both 'end supports' need to be reset.*

**Hazard Level**

*2 - Serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability*

**Additional Photo**

**Photo**



**Comments**

*Check with Manufacturers Rep - as I am unclear if the blue climber piece to to be firm or moving.*

**Hazard Level**


*3 - Minor (non-disabling) injury/Non-compliant*



## SPINNERS & OTHER FREE STANDING EQUIPMENT

<b>Spinner</b>	2
<b>Inspection</b>	Hardware - corrosion, badly worn, loose, missing, welds pitting
<b>Hardware - corrosion, badly worn, loose, missing, welds pitting, coated chain</b>	Non-Compliant
<b>Additional Photo(s)</b>	No
<b>Safety Labels Missing</b>	Age Group Levels, Hot Surface Warning Label, Surfacing Warning Label, Adult Supervision Recommended

## Hardware - corrosion, badly worn, loose, missing, welds pitting

<b>Photo</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	The 'foot holder rubber' is cracked and rusted. Replace.
<b>Hazard Level</b>	3 - Minor (non-disabling) injury/Non-compliant

## SITE AMENITIES INVENTORY & INSPECTION

<b>Shade</b>	Yes
<b>Playground/ Park Name Sign</b>	No
<b>Playground Safety/ Regulatory Sign</b>	No
<b>Other</b>	



## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS





## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS





## ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND PHOTOS















# APPENDIX



Playground Inspections of NE, LLC  
183 Sheep Pond Circle, Brewster MA 02631  
e: [nancy@playgroundinspectionsne.com](mailto:nancy@playgroundinspectionsne.com)  
p: 508-782-0263



**Certified  
Playground  
Safety Inspector**

<u>INFORMATION OF INTEREST</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
 EQUIPMENT NOT RECOMMENDED	3
 PLAYGROUND SITE HISTORY CHECKLIST	4
 PLAYGROUND DRAFT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT	5-6
 PLAYGROUND HIGH FREQUENCY INSPECTION (Daily or Routine)	7
 EXAMPLES OF PLAYGROUND SAFETY LABELS	8
 PARK AND/OR RECREATION FREQUENTLY USED TERMS	9-11
 EXAMPLES OF PLAYGROUND SIGNAGE	12
 WHAT TO EXPECT: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party LOW FREQUENCY PLAYGROUND INSPECTION	13
 WHAT TO EXPECT: 3 <sup>RD</sup> Party PLAYGROUND AUDITS	14
 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND SOURCES	15
 DISCLAIMER	16
 CPSI CERTIFICATION	17

**EQUIPMENT NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS**  
**[ASTM F 1487-17; CPSC #325-10 SECTION 2.3.1]**

- Heavy Metal Swings
- Ropes Swings
- Giant Stride
- Exercise Rings
- Trapeze bars
- Swinging gates and doors [ASTM F 1487-17 Section 8.7] [ASTM F 2373-08 Section 9.1.1]
- Swinging dual exercise rings and trapeze bars
- Trampolines
- Climbing Ropes that are not secured at both ends
- Single Ropes or cables hung under 84 inches high [ASTM F 1487-17 Section 6.6]

***These items should be removed from the playground, regardless of the intended user age!***

**EQUIPMENT NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YRS. OLD**

- Free Standing Arch Climbers [ASTM F 2373-08 Section 9.1.1] [CPSC #325-10 Section 5.3.2.2]
- Free Standing climbing events with flexible components [ASTM F 2373-08 Section 9.1.1] [CPSC #325-10 Section 5.3.2.3]
- Log Rolls [ASTM F 1487-17 Section 8.12.3] [ASTM F 2373-08 Section 9.1.1] [CPSC #325-10 Section 5.3.2.3]
- Fulcrum Seesaws [ASTM F 1487-17 Section 8.10.1] [ASTM F 2373-07 Section 9.1.1] [CPSC #325-10 Section 5.3.5.1]
- Spiral Slides with more than 360 degrees [CPSC #325-10 Section 5.4.6.3.3]
- Track Rides [ASTM F 1487-17 Section 8.13.1] [CPSC #325-10 Section 5.3.2.7]
- Sliding Poles [ASTM F 2373-08 Section 9.1.1] [CPSC #325-10 Section 5.3.2.6]
- Flexible Climbers – Sole means of access [CPSC #325-10 Section 5.3.2]

**EQUIPMENT NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER 4 YRS. OLD**

- Horizontal Ladders [60 inches or less for 4 yr. old users] [CPSC #325-10 Section 5.3.2.4]
- Ring Treks [60 inches or less for 4 yr. old users] [CPSC #325-10 Section 5.3.2.5]

# PLAYGROUND SITE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Equip. Installed: \_\_\_\_\_

Checklist completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

©2011 International Playground Safety Institute, LLC

Item on File YES	NO	Checklist Items
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Manufacturer's information – address, contact, phone, e-mail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Insurance certificate (including product liability limits)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Inspection, maintenance, and repair instructions
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Itemized lists of play components and parts
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Manufacturer's installation drawings and instructions
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Compliance letters:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Equipment compliance (w/ ASTM F1487, CPSC Handbook)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Installation compliance (w/ ASTM F1487, CPSC Handbook)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. Surfacing compliance (w/ ASTM F1292, ASTM F1951)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Specifications and bid documents (equipment and surfacing)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. PO's, contracts, award documents
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Site plans and drawings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Playground policy statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Staff training documentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Initial play area safety audit
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Recommended inspection frequency checklist
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Completed inspection forms; master copies of forms
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Remedial action history:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Telephone complaints
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Work Orders
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Accident and Incident Reports (w/ names blacked out)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Accident Investigation Reports (w/ names blacked out)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18. Accident summary reports or studies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19. Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20. Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21. Other

**IMPORTANT:** This information has been prepared to assist the owner's attorney in defending potential litigation. Do not release to any person except an agency official, insurance representative, or an investigating police officer.

# PLAYGROUND DRAFT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT

©2011 International Playground Safety Institute, LLC

## DRAFT Accident/Incident Report

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person completing report: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>General Liability Claim</b>			
Bodily Injury <input type="checkbox"/> Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Location of Incident</b>			
Date of Accident: _____		Time of Accident: _____	
Location/Address: _____ (name of park, pool community center, facility, etc.)			
Specific Location: _____ (playground, parking lot, gym, etc.)			
<b>Bodily Injury</b>			
Name of Injured Person: _____		Birth Date: _____	Sex: _____
Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____	Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____		Business/Daytime Phone: _____	
Part of body injured: _____		Nature of injury: _____	
Brief factual summary of incident: (no speculation or opinions)			
Did injured person make any statements? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No    If so, what was said?			
Was First Aid Administered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
By whom: (name and position) _____			
What first aid was given? _____			
Paramedics Services Offered?		Police Called? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Refused		Police Dept. _____	
Paramedics Called? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Officer: _____	
(When in doubt, call for paramedics services.)			



# PLAYGROUND DRAFT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT

©2011 International Playground Safety Institute, LLC

<b>Bodily Injury</b> (continued)			
Parents/Relatives Notified? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
By whom: _____		Phone: _____	
Parent/relative name: _____		Phone: _____	
Relationship to injured person? _____			
<b>Witness Information</b>			
Name: _____			
Home Phone: _____		Business/Daytime Phone: _____	
Address: _____			
City: _____		State: _____	Zip: _____
Relationship to injured party:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Relative/friend (specify) _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Another program participant or park user			
<input type="checkbox"/> Passer-by			
<input type="checkbox"/> Employee or volunteer			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____			
Did witness make any statements? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If so, what was said? (Attach more pages if necessary)			
<b>Third Party Property Damage (damage to non-agency property)</b>			
Name of Property Owner:			Sex:
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Home Phone:	Business/Daytime Phone:		
Property damaged was:			
Explain how damage occurred (facts only, no opinions):			
Estimated Cost to Repair?		Estimates attached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

# PLAYGROUND HIGH FREQUENCY INSPECTION

High Frequency Playground Inspection

## High Frequency Inspection Form (Daily or Routine) Any Town Park District

Site Name/Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start/Finish Times \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Repairer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start/Finish Times \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Use the following codes: 1= Okay 2= Needs Maintenance 3= Request for Repair  
O= Supervisor Notified and Work Order Written X= Corrective Action Complete

General Inspection Items	Code	Inspection Comments	Repair Comments
Vandalism: Damage, graffiti, glass, trash, etc.			
Loose or missing hardware			
Chains (kinked, twisted, broken)			
Components secure (no loosening)			
Swing Seats (cut, cracked, missing)			
Wood (rotten, cracked, missing)			
Remove foreign objects (ropes, chains, wood, etc.)			
Sweep walkways, platforms, steps			
Footers (concrete) exposed			
Standing water			
Objects in surfacing material			
Rake loose surfacing material level			
Need surfacing material for under:			
Swings			
Climbers			
Sliding Poles			
Slide			
Others			

For official use only

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form has been prepared to assist the playground owner's attorney in defending potential litigation.  
DO NOT release to any person except an owner's official or designated claim representative, or an investigating officer.

Use back of form for additional comments.

Report all vandalism to building principal and/or your maintenance supervisor.

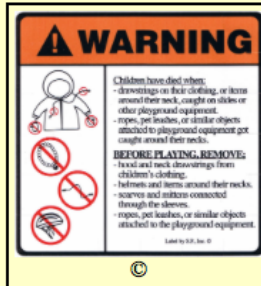
©2011 International Playground Safety Institute, LLC



# EXAMPLES OF SAFETY PLAYGROUND LABELS

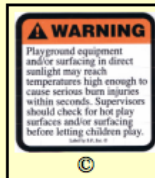
[AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE]

\$2.00 EA.

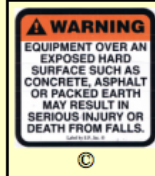


**Strangulation Warning Label;** (3.75" x 3.75") See CPSC Section 3.2.1, pages 14 and 15, and ASTM #F1487-11 Section 14.2.3. This label will inform, warn, and educate about the hazard of a user being strangled on the playground and what steps to take to mitigate it, and provides graphics for complete message clarity.

**Note:** CPSC says to place this label on or near "slides or other equipment", however, entrances to the entire play area are the best locations so that the "message is conveyed" in a timely manner.



**"Hot Surface" Warning Label;** (2.5" x 2.5") See CPSC Sections 2.1, 2.4.2.1, 2.5.3, 5.3.6, and ASTM #F1487-11 Section 14.2.4. This label warns the caregiver about the hazard of burn injuries and to check surfacing and/or equipment before use to mitigate burn injuries.



**Surfacing Warning Label (version "A")** (2.5" x 2.5") complies with ASTM #F1487-11, Section 14.2.5. This label will inform, warn, and educate about the hazard of play equipment located over hard surfaces. The purpose of this label is to serve as a constant reminder to provide and maintain appropriate surfacing.



**Surfacing Warning Label (version "B")** (2.5" x 2.5") complies with ASTM #F1487-11, Section 14.2.5. This label will inform, warn, and educate about the hazard of play equipment located over hard surfaces. The purpose of this label is to serve as a constant reminder to provide and maintain appropriate surfacing.



**"Adult Supervision Is Recommended" Label** (2.5" x 2.5") tells users and caregivers that the playground is not intended as a place for unsupervised play. See CPSC Sections 1.6, 2.2.7, and the ASTM #F1487 "Introduction" and Section 14.2.2.



**Age Group Labels** (2.5" x 2.5" each) help with age separation, which is critical to safety and correct inspection evaluations! "For kids ages 2-5 years", "For kids ages 5-12 years", "For kids ages 2-12 years". CPSC Section 2.2.6 says "Labels posted in the playground area or on the equipment should give some guidance to supervisors as to the age appropriateness of the equipment." Also, CPSC Section 2.2.7 says "Supervisors should look for posted signs indicating the appropriate age of the users and direct children to equipment appropriate for their age." See ASTM Standard #F1487 Section 5.2, and Section 14.2.1 that requires these labels as well.



## PARK AND/OR RECREATION – FREQUENTLY USED TERMINOLOGY

- **Anchor Park:** A prominently located park, in a viable and populated area. This type of park draws people to it for many reasons, other than just the use of the playground equipment. The park itself can be the main reason the area thrives.
- **ASTM guidelines:** ASTM stands for American Society for Testing and Materials. The organization develops over 12,500 voluntary consensus standards. They have over 140 technical standards-writing committees and represent many diverse industries.
- **CPSC Guidelines:** The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook for Public Playground Safety (CPSC Handbook) is the recognized standard for playground equipment safety.
- **Destination Playground:** A piece of land, free of homes and buildings that is large and offers a wide variety of activities. People usually congregate in groups, but also offers space for the individual. The area is usually a large open space.
- **EPDM:** E propylene Diene Monomer (M-class) rubber), is a type of synthetic rubber. The M refers to its classification in ASTM standard D-1418; the M class includes rubbers having a chain of the polyethylene type.
- **EWf:** Stands for Engineered Wood Fiber, which is an economical playground surfacing. It has high impact absorbing qualities and still it is a firm, slip resistant surface that will meet accessibility guidelines.
- **GFRC:** Stands for Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete, this material are used with playground equipment often in a themed or natural play playground.
- **Gimlet:** A Gimlet by definition, is a small tool for boring holes [usually an awl bit or hand twist drill], consisting of a shaft with a pointed screw at one end and a handle perpendicular to the shaft at the other.



## PARK AND/OR RECREATION – FREQUENTLY USED TERMINOLOGY

- ☐ **Impact Attenuation:** Impact attenuation of playground surfacing is a measure of the surface's ability to absorb shock from a falling object such as a child. This attenuation is critical in the ASTM guidelines for prevention of head or bodily injuries.
- ☐ **Neighborhood Park:** Neighborhood parks, which generally range in size, usually take in several blocks of users in a surrounding neighborhood. These parks serve as a social and recreational focal point for a neighborhood. Neighborhood parks usually provide 'relief' and 'rejuvenation' from the environment for residents. In some instances, the neighborhood takes ownership of the playground often helping and contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of the playground.
- ☐ **PIP:** Stands for Poured in Place rubber. This is a common surfacing material used in playgrounds.
- ☐ **Play Value:** The degree to which a playground and its equipment offers multiple layers of opportunities to develop social, physical, intellectual, and moral, development through play.
- ☐ **Plumb:** Is a measure of the upright position of a post or main support column of a play structure i.e.; a net climber.
- ☐ **Pocket Park:** Is a small park accessible to the general public. Pocket parks are frequently created on a single vacant building lot or on small, irregular pieces of land. Used primarily by the adjacent abutters.
- ☐ **Professional Judgment/Opinion:** The ability of an individual with current knowledge, skill and experience in the field of playground, playground equipment, design, use and operation to form an opinion or make a decision using this level of expertise as a guideline.
- ☐ **PVC Coating:** Polyvinyl chloride is a soft rubbery coating on playground equipment made of metal such as decks.
- ☐ **PVC Paste:** PVC coating that can be used to fill in areas where the original PVC coating has worn off or has exposed the underlying metal. As well as used in areas where PVC coating cannot reach such as arches and other vulnerable areas.
- ☐ **Residential Play Toys:** Any piece of plastic or metal play toy brought from home to add play to a playground. All 'play toys' should be removed.
- ☐ **SBR:** Stands for Styrene Butadiene Rubber, is the basemat for poured in place rubber.

## PARK AND/OR RECREATION – FREQUENTLY USED TERMINOLOGY

□ **Spalling:** Formal definition: break (ore, rock, stone, or concrete) into smaller pieces; to break off in fragments. "Cracks below the surface cause slabs of material to spall off". Hard material, which is starting to, or is currently shedding rust, usually in layers. I.e.: a deck that is PVC coated is losing its PVC from normal wear and tear. The steel shows, starts to rust, and then spalls. Rust flakes and settles on top of itself.

□ **Use Zone:** Use zones are typically set with playground equipment such as swings or slides mainly because of safety reasons. These zones help spacing between play structures or components to allow users ample amount of room so injuries are avoided.

□ **3rd Party Playground Inspector:** The inspection provided to clients remains free from bias or conflict of interest (i.e.: the 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspector is not a manufacturer's sales representative, installer of equipment or surfacing, etc.).



## EXAMPLES OF PLAYGROUND SIGNAGE



## WHAT TO EXPECT: 3<sup>RD</sup> LOW FREQUENCY PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

Playground inspections [low frequency] should be completed at least annually to highlight the owner's intention to maintain a standard of care and to simply keep their playground safe. A CPSI [Certified Playground Safety Instructor] can uncover issues not usually seen by the owner, users, or those that maintain the playground on a regular basis with high frequency inspections.

Be Proactive! When low frequency inspections are completed, begin your scheduling to address the findings. Decide on the future scheduling for high and low frequency inspections immediately.

Determining between a high frequency and low frequency inspection schedule involves examining use and location of playground:

- 🔍 High frequency = a heavily used, busy playground needs more frequent inspections.
- 🔍 Low frequency = more comprehensive review of entire playground on an annual basis.
- 🔍 Actual physical location of playground - Inner city, suburb, rural
- 🔍 Is the playground at a school, in a neighborhood, in a private development or club
- 🔍 Ages of children that use the playground
- 🔍 Demographics of area - is there a history of vandalism at the park or surrounding areas?
- 🔍 Environmental conditions - is playground near ocean front or damp area?
- 🔍 Surfacing – loose fill or unitary?
- 🔍 Materials used in manufacturing – wood, steel, aluminum, plastic.

Low Frequency Inspections include a report that will identify hazards and maintenance required on your playground, an inventory of the playground, photographs to clearly identify potential issues, and possible recommended resolutions to bring the playground into compliance. Risk taking for children is a normal and needed part of development. It is when the risk becomes a hazard that problems occur. Having a regular [at least annual] low frequency inspection will help to avoid the hazard before they happen. *Inspections are based on the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's CPSC Guidelines and following ASTM International standard F1487-17.*

## HIGH FREQUENCY PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

A maintenance worker, school custodian, park staff, etc. can conduct High Frequency Inspections on a regular basis. We can provide you with a format for your inspections and help you determine frequency schedules.



## WHAT TO EXPECT: 3<sup>RD</sup> PLAYGROUND AUDITS

A Playground Audit is a comprehensive evaluation of a playground, resulting in a highly detailed safety report. Audits are usually performed:

- 🔍 After a new installation;
- 🔍 If an audit has never been completed;
- 🔍 While considering a major renovation to playground; or
- 🔍 If the playground is under consideration for being removed or replaced.

An audit includes:

- 🔍 A detailed, comprehensive playground safety report, including photographs of non-compliance areas.
- 🔍 General inventory of play components and site amenities.
- 🔍 Use zone evaluation.
- 🔍 Siting of current environmental conditions in play area.
- 🔍 Siting of current maintenance conditions in play area.
- 🔍 Inspection in detail including surfacing, perimeter edging, site amenities, each piece or groups of same components.
- 🔍 Observations by made by Inspector of playground and children at play during audit [if applicable].
- 🔍 Identifying hazards by a priority rating of 1-5. Where "1" is non-compliant, that may result in permanent disability, loss of life or body part[s].
- 🔍 Identifying violations with the ASTM 1487-17 or CPSC current regulation category.
- 🔍 Identifying the playground's compliance with the current ADA requirements.
- 🔍 Lastly, recommendations in the Inspectors "professional opinion", for bringing your play area into compliance.
- 🔍 The Inspector takes care when measuring, photographing and examining conditions of equipment based on the CPSC and ASTM safety standards.

At audit completion, the Inspector will deliver the audit, and explain findings.

The Consumer Product and Safety Commission CPSC-10 and the American Society of Testing Materials ASTM 1487-17 are compilations of suggested guidelines. These guidelines do not cover "home playground equipment, amusement park equipment or indoor playgrounds [most enclosed units]."

Each year in the US, over 200,000 children go to the emergency room due to playground accidents. The age group 2-9 years makes up 75% percent of the accidents. An audit may not uncover every potential safety concern in a child's environment; but it is an essential tool in helping to prevent most hazards.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND SOURCES

- 🔍 International Playground Safety Institute, LLC, Ken Kutska, CPRP, CPSI
- 🔍 SafePlay by Design, David Spease, CPSI
- 🔍 Playground Inspections, USA
- 🔍 Safety Play Inc., Scott Burton, CPSI
- 🔍 Playground Medic, P. Payne, CPSI, J. Reed, CPSI
- 🔍 ASTM F 1487-17; ASTM F 1292; ASTM F 1951; ASTM F2049; ASTM 2373
- 🔍 CPSC-10

“Play is the work of children”. {*Maria Montessori*}  
It is our work to keep them safe while they play.



## DISCLAIMER

### Playground Inspection Disclaimer (either Low or High):

Playground Inspections of New England, LLC ("PINE") bases its playground inspection procedures on the standards of both the American Society for Testing and Materials ("ASTM") and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC"), as those may be amended from time to time.

At the completion of the inspection, PINE will furnish to the customer a written report (the "Inspection Report") which shall identify possible noncompliance with ASTM 1487-17 and CPSC standards and which shall make recommendations with regard to further investigation (the "Inspection Results"). The inspection and the Inspection Report shall cover only the playground with respect to which PINE has been engaged to inspect (the "Playground"). The Inspection Report shall only reference the conditions of the Playground on the date of the inspection, which date shall be specifically provided for in the Report (the "Inspection Date"). It is specifically understood that PINE shall not perform any repairs or maintenance on the Playground as that is the sole responsibility of the customer.

PINE shall have no liability whatsoever with regard to any change in the condition of the Playground from and after the Inspection Date.

PINE shall have no liability relating to the Playground or the Inspection Report or relating in any way to any loss, cost, liability, damages, claims or suits whatsoever relating to the same unless due solely to the gross negligence or willful act of PINE.

An inspection of a playground is not an audit of said playground, but is rather a more generalized review designed to alert the customer to possible non-compliance with ASTM 1487-17 and CPSC and the Inspection Report is not to be deemed to be a certification as to the safety of the playground or its compliance with ASTM 1487-17 and CPSC.



# National Recreation and Park Association

Let it be known that

**NANCY WHITE**

has met the requirements of the standards set forth by the  
National Certification Board  
and is hereby granted certification as a

**Certified Playground Safety Inspector**



**Certified  
Playground  
Safety Inspector**

CHAIRPERSON

NRPA PRESIDENT AND CEO

April 06, 2017

DATE CERTIFIED

38108-0520

CERTIFICATION NUMBER

May 01, 2020

EXPIRATION DATE