

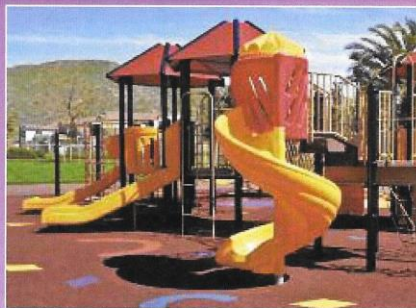
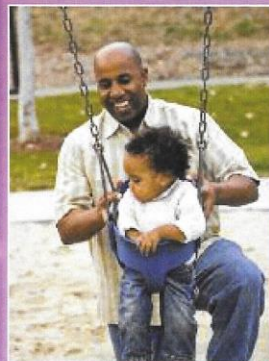
How to Inspect your Playground - Tools and Forms

By: Don May - TF Harper

Where do you start?

- ▶ 1. Obtain a copy of the CPSC Playground Safety Manual.
- ▶ 2. Obtain a copy of your playground layout from the manufacturer.
- ▶ 3. Download a Playground Inspection form and make your own to match your playground(s). * you may need multiple set to match the number of playground structures or components at your School District.
- ▶ 4. Read the CPSC Manual to find the safety measurements for the playground components that you have.

Public Playground Safety Handbook



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Saving Lives and Keeping Families Safe



Inspection Forms

- ▶ 1. Low frequency or high frequency inspection forms.
- ▶ 2. It depends on the usage of your playground.
- ▶ 3. Do the neighbors use your playground after hours?
- ▶ 4. Do you have frequent vandalism of your playground?
- ▶ 5. How old is your playground?

Low Frequency Inspection (Quarterly/Semiannually)

Playground		Inspector		Date			
Page _____ of _____ (Hands On- Physical Check Inspector)			Equipment List				
GENERAL SAFETY							
1. Warning labels and age signage present and legible							
2. Equipment free of crush and shear hazards							
3. Equipment free of entanglement hazards, protrusions							
4. Equipment free of sharp points, edges							
5. Bolts ends less than two threads, rounded, smooth							
6. No change in openings causing head entrapment							
7. No insect, bird or animal infestation							
FINISHES & MATERIAL CONDITIONS							
1. Metal surfaces are free of rust and loose paint chips							
2. Surfaces are clean, free of graffiti and vandalism							
3. Wood is free of rot, splinters, warping, checking							
4. Free of bent, broken, missing parts, excessive wear							
5. Plastics components are free of cracks							
6. Welds are intact and crack free							
7. PVC coatings are not peeling and in good condition							
FASTENERS							
1. Hardware is present, tight and fully engaged							
2. Pipe caps are present on ends of tubing							
3. Fittings/bearings are functional, greased, squeak free							
4. Turnbuckles are engaged and properly adjusted							
5. Cables/ropes are anchored and not unraveled							
STRUCTURAL MEMBERS							
1. Footings/anchoring devices are secure and stable							
2. Structural members are sound and securely fastened							
3. Springs/rocking components in good repair							
GRIPPING & STEPPING COMPONENTS							
1. Hand gripping components secure and do not rotate							
2. Stepping surfaces are level, stable and clean							
3. Foot holds/rungs are tight and free of excessive wear							
SLIDES							
1. Slide bedway and rails are smooth and clear of debris							
2. Bedway at platform is free of entanglement hazard							
SWINGS & MOVING COMPONENTS							
1. Chains are not twisted and are free of excessive wear							
2. S - hooks are not worn and closed to within 0.04 inch							
3. Swing hangers & bushings are free of excessive wear							
4. Swing seats are smooth & in good condition							
5. Tire seats are lightweight, smooth & in good condition							
6. Tire swing assemblies greased and in good condition							
7. All moving components are in good condition, secure, & lubricated							
OTHER							
PROTECTIVE SURFACING				Comment on back			
1. Loose-fill surfacing is level and at proper depth							
2. Use zones are clear of obstacles and debris							
3. Surface drainage is functional with no standing water							
4. Wear mats are properly secured in place, level							
5. Unitary surfaces are intact, free of depressions & ruts							
6. Surfaces intended to be accessible are essentially level (1:48 cross slope, 1:16 running slope)							
7. Accessible surfaces are free of abrupt changes of elevation greater than ½ inch and do not have cracks or gaps greater than ½ inch horizontal.							
8. Transfer platforms have a height above the surfacing between 11 and 18 inches.							
Codes	N/A (Not Applicable)	✓ (Okay)	M=Maintenance	R=Repair Required	O=Outstanding Issue	P=Parts Needed	X=Corrected

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____

Note: This is a quarterly/semi-annual report and designed as a sample inspection report. Manufacturer's maintenance instructions for inspection schedules and replacement parts are to be referred to prior to any repairs. Maintenance schedules should be developed based upon actual or anticipated playground use" (CPSC). Retain all inspection reports to assist in development.

Codes

The following codes can be used to indicate the present condition of the equipment so that corrective action can be planned, tracked, and documented.

Code	Explanation
N/A (Not Applicable)	A "N/A" indicates that the component or information is non-existent or not provided, either because it does not apply to a particular component or because the answer is not available.
✓ (Okay)	A check mark indicates that the component has been checked and that the conditions are satisfactory.
M (Maintenance)	An "M" indicates that the condition was corrected during the inspection. Examples would be tightening hardware or removing debris.
R (Repair)	An "R" indicates that repairs cannot be readily completed while the inspector is on site and follow up repairs will be necessary by a skilled staff member or outside vendor. If the condition could present a hazard to users, the equipment should be taken out of service until the situation can be corrected. When the repairs have been made, indicate so by marking an "X" for completed maintenance.
O (Outstanding)	<p>An "O" indicates that a serious hazard may be present requiring additional action or that the inspector wants or needs a second opinion. If the condition could present a hazard to users, the equipment should be taken out of service until the situation can be corrected. When the repairs have been made, indicate so by marking an "X" for completed maintenance.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The inspector may not have the authority to order the removal of a piece of equipment.• The inspector may be unsure of the existence of a protrusion or entanglement hazard and needs to consult with a CPSI.• The structural integrity of a piece of playground equipment is in question and a structural engineer must be consulted.
P (Parts)	A "P" indicates that replacement parts are required and need to be ordered and installed. If the condition could present a hazard to users, the equipment should be taken out of service until the situation can be corrected. When the repairs have been made, indicate so by marking an "X" for completed maintenance.
X (Corrected)	An "X" indicates that all necessary work and actions have been taken to repair, replace, or remove an unacceptable condition. Make certain that the date of correction is written beside the "X."

Comments:

Inspection Form Sections

- ▶ Surfacing
- ▶ General Hazards
- ▶ Play Structures
- ▶ Swings
- ▶ Slides
- ▶ Monkey Bars

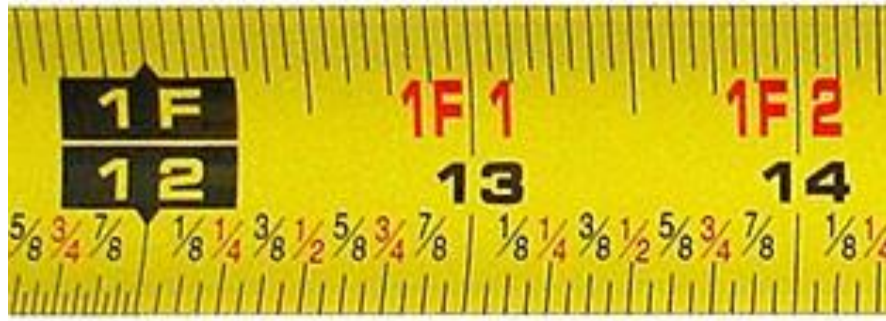
Inspection Form Sections

- ▶ Zip Line
- ▶ Merry Go Rounds
- ▶ Walkway Bridge
- ▶ Use Zones
- ▶ Maintenance Issues, Fall Zone Material, Concrete footings, Corrosion, Sharp Objects, Bolt threads?

Playground Inspection Tools?



Best Tool Available!



Inspecting Your Playground

- ▶ 1. Observation, Observation!
- ▶ 2. Refer to your Inspection Form and the dimensions in the CPSC Manual.
- ▶ 3. Understand the difference between Fall Height and Critical Fall Height.
- ▶ **4. Safety for Monkey Bars**
- ▶ For monkey bars or upper body equipment, the highest part of the structure to the surfacing determines the Fall Height. This means that the Critical Height must be as tall or taller than the monkey bars. *ASTM 8.3.6*

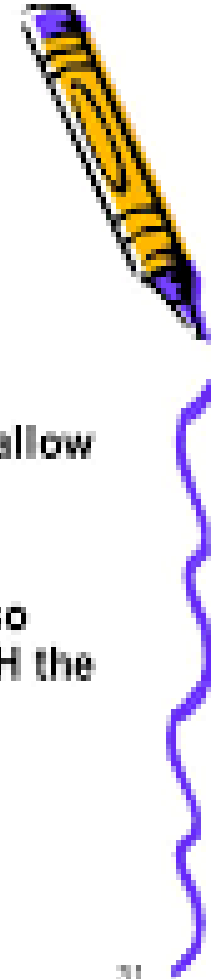
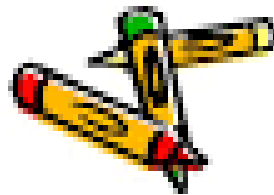
Fall Zone Materials

Table 2. Minimum compressed loose-fill surfacing depths

Inches	Of	(Loose-Fill Material)	Protects to	Fall Height (feet)
6*		Shredded/recycled rubber		10
9		Sand		4
9		Pea Gravel		5
9		Wood mulch (non-CCA)		7
9		Wood chips		10
* Shredded/recycled rubber loose-fill surfacing does not compress in the same manner as other loose-fill materials. However, care should be taken to maintain a constant depth as displacement may still occur.				

Testing for Entrapment Hazard

- Using templates/probes
 - Any opening that allows the small torso template/probe to pass through, but does NOT allow the large head template/probe to pass through
 - **FAILS = HAZARD**
 - Any opening that does NOT allow the small torso template/probe to pass through OR allows BOTH the small torso template/probe and the large head template/probe to pass through
 - **PASSES = NO HAZARD**



From CPSC Manual

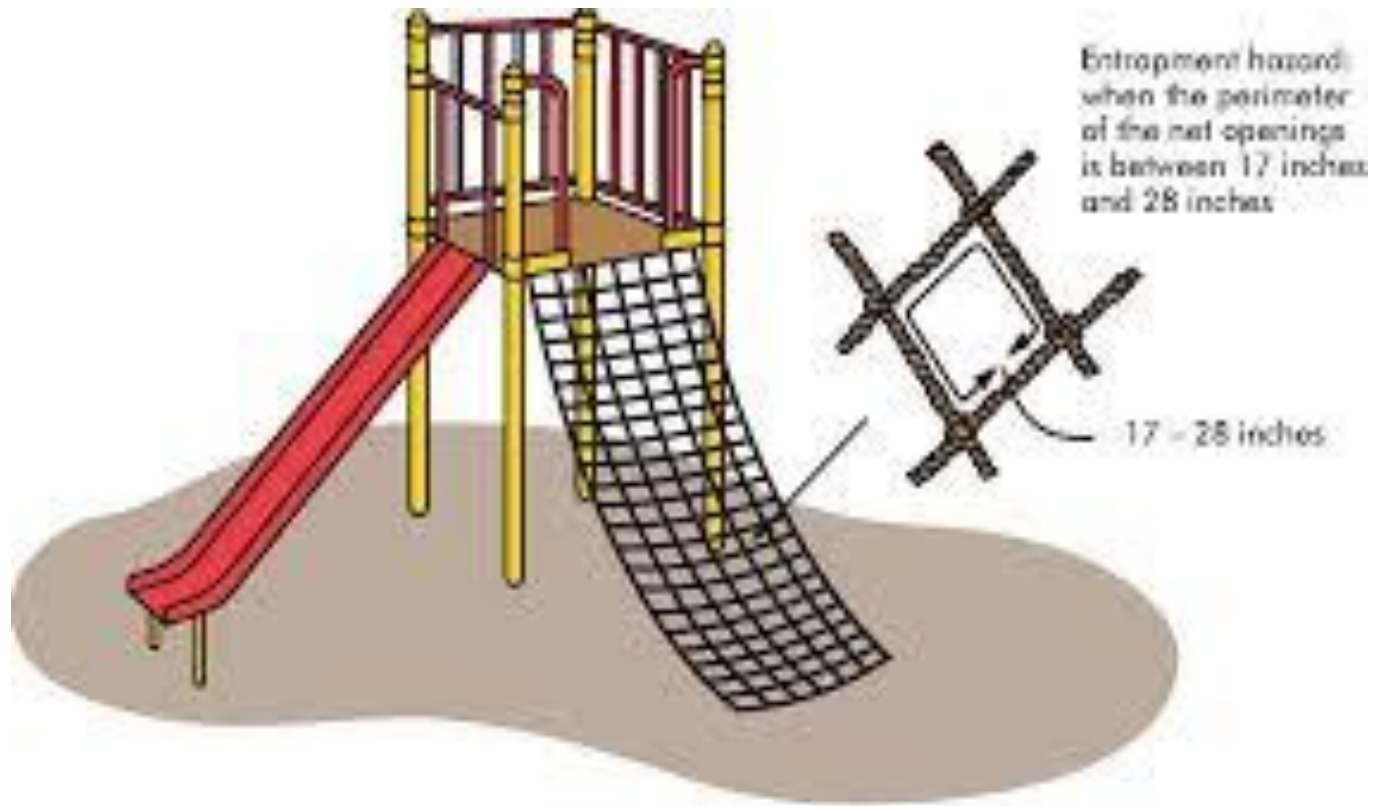


Figure 18. Entrapment hazards in flexible climbers

► C





What is Wrong?



What is wrong?



What is Wrong?



What is Wrong?



What is Wrong?

