

# PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Playgrounds are an essential element of child development and education. The State of California requires all public playgrounds meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards. To assist our member districts in meeting these requirements and keeping playgrounds available and safe for our students, SIA offers many tools, services and resources.



# CPSI COURSE

If your district has playgrounds, SIA strongly encourages you to have staff who meet the State of California's requirements regarding playground inspections. The knowledge your staff will gain from the Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) course will provide cost-saving insight into equipment purchases, installation, maintenance and inspection. The California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) in conjunction with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) currently provide this course. SIA will reimburse our member districts the cost of the course and exam once the course is completed.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions or more information about your particular playground, please call (916) 364-1281 or email [preventionservices@sia-jpa.org](mailto:preventionservices@sia-jpa.org)

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Schools Insurance Authority  
P.O. Box 276710  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
916.364.1281

# Playgrounds



# Prevention Services



PO Box 276710 • Sacramento, CA • 95827  
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# FALL MATERIAL

Since most injuries on playground equipment are the result of falls to the ground, ample fall material is essential.

- Ensure fall material is loose and ample. Material is often kicked away in high use areas such as at the base of the slide. Move material back under equipment with a rake or your foot.
- Remove sharp objects from fall material. If you find needles, broken glass or other dangerous objects, use gloves or a shovel. If children are present, send for assistance while preventing the children from entering the area.
- Replace loose fall material to maintain the proper depth for the height and type of equipment. If necessary, restrict the use of equipment that lacks adequate fall material until it is safe to use.
- Unitary surfacing (rubber mats) require maintenance and can be vandalized. Conduct regular inspections and repair or replace as needed.
- Keep logs of all inspections and maintenance that have been performed. Keep records of all additions or repairs to the fall material.

# PLAYGROUND ACCESSIBILITY

All children benefit from play and interacting with other children so it is important that your playgrounds are accessible. If you are planning a new playground, contact SIA to have your site plan reviewed prior to purchasing and installation. Our ADA Specialist will evaluate the plan to ensure it meets ADA standards and current California Building Codes.

# PLAYGROUND AUDITS

New playgrounds must be inspected by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) prior to initial use. If you have a new playground, SIA staff are available to conduct the audit and provide the initial inspection report. Even new playgrounds have issues; please contact SIA early to schedule the inspection upon installation completion.

# HELPFUL HINTS

- Create separate files for each playground site. Include manufacturer's information, site and installation plans, equipment inventory, warranties, compliance documentation, inspection reports, photos of site, and work orders.
- Inspect playgrounds weekly
  - Keep a log of inspections including date and name of person conducting the inspection.
  - Notify appropriate district staff of concerns or maintenance needs immediately.
- Use only equipment manufacturer produced parts and hardware for necessary repairs or replacements.
- Age of user for equipment is determined by the manufacturer only.
- Keep playground documentation indefinitely, including after equipment removal.
- Consult your district for additional documentation requirements.

# PLAYGROUND SIGNAGE

School playgrounds are often available for use by the public during non-school hours. These labels were designed to help the public use your equipment safely. The labels indicate the appropriate age range of the user, suggestions for safe play and direction for adult supervision and concerns. Each label is 5x7 inches and can be affixed directly onto the equipment. There are two age range options - 2 to 5 years and 5 to 12 years.



To request visit: [www.sia-jpa.org/materials-order](http://www.sia-jpa.org/materials-order)

# FORMS AND CHECKLISTS

## PLAYGROUND AUDIT/INSPECTION FORM:

All public playgrounds in California are to be inspected by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). This checklist can be used by a CPSI to conduct initial inspections of new equipment and can be adapted for ongoing inspections.

## ROUTINE INSPECTION FORM:

Use this checklist to conduct your routine inspections. This form can be adapted for each of your playgrounds, loose fill or unitary.

All forms and checklists can be found on our website under Playground Safety.

