

SCHOOL Safety Matters

Volume 7, Issue 8

A monthly publication brought to you by your BSD Risk Management Dept.

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Monthly Safety Tips

Preventing slips and falls

Spring in Oregon is famous for its unpredictable weather that can take a warm sunny day and instantly transform it with drenching showers, causing our floors to become slippery and dangerous. Slips and falls on walking surfaces are a leading cause of injuries and claims and proper placement and maintenance of walk off matting is the best way to reduce this risk.

Light Tube and Battery Recycling

Remember to recycle your school's spent fluorescent tubes and batteries. Every building should have containers on site for their collection. When the bins become full, simply contact Risk Management at x4560 for pick up.



No number of dedicated staff could make this slide safe!

In this issue of *School Safety Matters*, we look to the final stretch of the 2014-2015 school year. We ask that schools review playground and P.E. safety rules at least three times each year. We did this at the beginning of the school year and followed with reminders immediately following Winter Break. Now is an excellent time to finish a safe and successful year with a final review of our safety rules, practices and policies.



Playground Supervision

We are often asked "what is the required or recommended student to staff ratio for playground supervision?" The correct answer is that there are no hard and fast numbers when it comes to safely supervising our students. The reason is that no two schools and no two playgrounds are alike. Some playgrounds are designed with the equipment centralized in a location with good sight lines to all areas of the structure. In which case, one or two staff members could provide adequate supervision. Other schools have a variety of structures spread across the site requiring many more sets of adult eyes and ears to keep the students safe. The following are important things to remember when determining a supervision plan regardless of number of staff members involved:

Being present and attentive ~ Staff should be on the playground before the students arrive and should stay in reasonable proximity to the areas of activity. The students should always be within sight and sound and staff should avoid becoming distracted while on duty.

Duty staff responsibilities ~ Staff should be knowledgeable of rules and safety policies and know which equipment is appropriate for the age group they are supervising. They should restrict students from roughhousing, horseplay or any other inappropriate behavior. It is the staff member's responsibility to control the play environment.

Emergencies ~ Staff members should know what to do in the event an emergency situation develops on the playground to reduce any potential injury or damage.

Hazard identification ~ Staff should be risk conscious and prioritize their attention into the areas where accidents are most likely to occur. It is also important to check the playground daily and report any ground or equipment hazards that should be corrected.

Please call Risk Management at ext. 4560 if we can help you with any safety question or if you have any safety tips that should be forwarded to the rest of the District.