

SCHOOL Safety Matters

Volume 7 Issue 9

A monthly publication from the BSD Risk Management Department

May 2015

Monthly Safety Tips

Science Safety

Many of our science classrooms are furnished with natural gas supply lines that can be used in a variety of important educational labs. These lines should have a shut-off valve to cut the supply when not in use. This valve should only be open while labs involving gas are being conducted. Leaving these lines open has led to the accidental discharge of gas into rooms and forcing schools to evacuate. To avoid this inconvenience, and the more serious potential consequences a gas leak can cause, we ask all our science teachers to be vigilant about this important safety practice.



In this issue of *School Safety Matters*, we look at the unique safety challenges of spring. It is an exciting time as our school year begins to wind down and longer days bring warmer weather. Unfortunately, this excitement also creates distractions that historically have led to an increase in accidents, injuries and claims. We believe, however, that every accident is preventable and proper supervision is the best way to prevent people from getting hurt. When supervising staff understand policies and rules, communicate these expectations to the students on their watch, and consistently ensure that they are followed, accident rates drop. Simply being aware of this trend makes us extra vigilant, take the measures necessary to keep everyone safe and allow us to enjoy spring.

Celebrating Safely

Many schools are beginning to plan their end of the year celebrations, and we have been getting questions on safety rules for bouncy houses, dunk tanks and climbing walls.



Only bouncy houses furnished by a registered and insured business are allowed, and these must be set up by the vendor supplying the house. Also, a representative from that company must be present for the duration of the event to ensure it is operating properly and supervised adequately. If a climbing wall and a dunk tank are both being used, trained employees from the rental company must operate each activity independently, and no students are allowed inside the dunk tank, only BSD staff members. To find a registered and insured vendor for your event, go to <https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/depts/hr/rm/Vendors.aspx>

Transporting Students

Often our programs extend beyond the boundaries of our schools, requiring the use of buses. Sometimes, the demand for these buses exceeds the capacity of District Transportation Services, and it becomes necessary to contract with a commercial bus service. When this occurs, the school must contact Transportation to confirm the service is approved by the Oregon Department of Education, which regulates the transportation of all students. The school must also contact Risk Management to verify the carrier has provided the appropriate level of insurance.



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.