

# ABC's of Playground Equipment Maintenance

**A** daily, monthly, and seasonal maintenance schedule should be created and strictly followed to promote a safe play environment for children.

**B**ushes, shrubs, trees, and other foliage should be trimmed or removed from the playground area to eliminate hiding spots for predators, muggers, vandals, etc.

**C**AN/CSA - Z614-14 Children's Playspace and Equipment Standard has been accepted by the Courts as the minimum requirement for playgrounds.

**D**ocument all inspections and maintenance.

**E**xit height of all slides should comply with CSA standards to provide a safe transition from the slide bed to the protective surface.

**F**encing should be inspected for any visible damage, protruding points, and hardware.

**G**rease all moving parts as required. Wipe off excess oil or grease.

**H**orizontal distance between adjacent to-fro swing seats at rest shall be no less than 600 mm (23.62").

**I**ncidents that occur on the equipment can lead to liability claims. Record all incidents, not just accidents.

**J**oining points at all angles or openings shall be less than 3" or more than 10" to reduce the chance of head entrapment.

**K**ids are "carefree" not "careless" in the eyes of the law.

**L**et manufacturers and installers provide their resources and expertise when making significant repairs or alterations.

**M**ajority of serious playground injuries result from falls onto surfaces that are not resilient enough. Concrete, asphalt, grass, turf and hard-packed dirt are not acceptable.

**N**eck and head entrapment, toggle and string entanglement, and falls to hard surfaces are typical hazards that can be prevented.

**O**ur society is becoming increasingly more litigious and injury awards are escalating.

**P**layground injuries resulting from falls can be prevented by ensuring all equipment has a surface around it in accordance with CSA Standards.

**Q**uickly respond to public complaints.

**R**ecords should be kept on each piece of playground equipment to track installation, maintenance schedules, repairs, costs and injury incidents.

**S**-hooks should be fully closed at all times and should never be re-used. Such a device is considered closed when there is no gap or space greater than 1 mm.

**T**rain your employees in appropriate playground inspection, maintenance, CSA Standards, and incident management.

**U**pggrading existing playground surfaces and equipment can prevent injury to children.

**V**ertical distances between the underside of a swing seat and the protective surfacing shall not be less than 300 mm (11.81").

**W**ooden, hard plastic, or metal swing seats should not be used. Approved cloth or rubber sling style seating is safer and more forgiving if the seat strikes a child.

**X'**plain your incident reporting system to all employees.

**Y**ou should remove all homemade playground & equipment that is old, worn out, or irreparable according to CSA Standards.

**Z**ero-tolerance policy should be adopted for equipment that doesn't meet standards.

While Intact Public Entities Inc. does its best to provide useful general information and guidance on matters of interest to its clients, statutes, regulations and the common law continually change and evolve, vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and are subject to differing interpretations and opinions. The information provided by Intact Public Entities Inc. is not intended to replace legal or other professional advice or services. The information provided by Intact Public Entities Inc. herein is provided "as is" and without any warranty, either express or implied, as to its fitness, quality, accuracy, applicability or timeliness. Before taking any action, consult an appropriate professional and satisfy yourself about the fitness, accuracy, applicability or timeliness of any information or opinions contained herein. Intact Public Entities Inc. assumes no liability whatsoever for any errors or omissions associated with the information provided herein and furthermore assumes no liability for any decision or action taken in reliance on the information contained in these materials or for any damages, losses, costs or expenses in a way connected to it. Intact Public Entities Inc. is operated by a wholly owned subsidiary of Intact Financial Corporation. Intact Design® and Risk Management Centre of Excellence® are registered trademarks of Intact Financial Corporation or its affiliates. All other trademarks are properties of their respective owners. TM & © 2021 Intact Public Entities Inc. and/or its affiliates. All Rights Reserved.