



Risk Management Division

June 7, 2018

Ms. Marcia Stokes, Business Manager
Tuscarora School District
100 W Seminary St,
Mercersburg, PA 17236

Subject: Policy Numbers: PROP608-17, CAS608-17, & AUTO608-17

Dear Ms. Stokes:

On Wednesday, May 30th, 2018, I visited Tuscarora School District to conduct playground inspections of the playground equipment at Mercersburg, Montgomery, Mountain View and St. Thomas Elementary schools.

During my visit, a number of conditions were noted where improvement is needed to reduce the possibility of loss. These improvement needs are addressed in the attached recommendations.

Please let me know of the action taken or planned for each recommendation by July 7th, 2018.

I want to thank you, Mr. Stanley Morgan, Director of Facilities, and the staff of the Tuscarora School District for the time and assistance provided during my visit.

Should you have any questions regarding the attached recommendations, or desire risk management assistance in the future, please call me at 717-790-2351.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jake Ruziecki'.

Jake Ruziecki
Risk Control Consultant

C: Stanley Morgan, Tuscarora School District
Roxi Seilhamer, Strickler Agency Inc.
Dan Haas, CMRIC
Robert White, CMRIC



RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mercersburg Elementary – North Playground

INADEQUATE SURFACING MATERIAL & USE ZONES – ARCH CLIMBER:

18-01 Surfacing material and adequate use zones are not provided for the arch climber on the north playground. The required use zone for the equipment is six (6) feet.

To reduce the potential for a serious injury, the arch climber should be provided with an adequate use zone and additional surfacing material.

In order to reduce the severity of falls from the climber, approved surfacing material, of a depth recommended by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and within the designated use zone.

A copy of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Public Playground Safety Handbook can be downloaded at <http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/122149/325.pdf>

WORN CHAINS AND SEATS – SWING SET:

18-02 At the time of my visit the swing chains were heavily worn on the top link. In addition, the swing seats were also worn and cracked. To reduce the risk of injury caused by potential equipment failure, the swing seats and chains should be replaced.

OVERHEAD RUNGS – DAMAGED:

18-03 The yellow overhead rungs on the climbing unit are damaged and one rung has been torn off. This condition increases the risk of injury caused by the sharp edges and falls by individuals having to reach further to access the overhead rungs. To reduce these risks the overhead rungs should be replaced.

REPLACE MISSING BOLT – FLEX STEP:

18-04 At the time of my visit one of the bolts on the yellow flex step attached to the climbing unit was missing. In addition, the equipment had some surface rust. This condition increases the risk of injury from potential equipment failure. To reduce this risk the missing bolt should be replaced with a bolt that meets, or exceeds, the original equipment manufacturers specifications, and the equipment should be resurfaced to remove the rust.

Please note:

A survey of your premises, equipment and operations has been undertaken for the purpose of supporting the functions of risk underwriting. The information contained within this report is intended to assist you with your risk management efforts but should not be construed as an attempt to address all possible safety-related exposures within your school entity, nor is it intended as a substitute for advice from a safety expert or legal counsel you may retain for your own purposes. The recommendations stated are not intended to supplant any legal duty you may have to provide safe premises, workplace, product or operations.

REPLACE BUSHING – ZIP GLIDER;

18-05 The zip glider attached to the yellow climbing unit is missing a bushing that reduces the stopping impact of the zip glider. To reduce the risk of injury and equipment damage the bushing should be replaced.

Mercersburg Elementary School – South Playground

WORN CHAINS AND SEATS – SWING SET;

18-06 At the time of my visit the swing chains were heavily worn on the top link. In addition, the swing seats were also worn and cracked. To reduce the risk of injury caused by potential equipment failure, the worn swing seats and chains should be replaced.

PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SURFACING MATERIAL – SWING SET;

18-07 Although surfacing material has been provided under and around the playground equipment, additional surfacing material is needed under and around the swing set. Studies by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicate that approximately 75% of playground injuries result from falls.

To reduce the severity of falls from playground equipment, approved surfacing material, of a depth and use zone recommended by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and around the swing set located at this playground.

ENTANGLEMENT HAZARD – ARCH CLIMBER;

18-08 The top of the arch climber closer to the building has bolts which protrude from the structure approximately 1/2 inch. These bolt heads could catch loose hanging clothing, necklaces, or hoods and entangle the individual, once entangled the individual would be suspended from the ground and could be seriously injured.

INADEQUATE SURFACING MATERIAL & USE ZONES – ARCH CLIMBERS;

18-09 Surfacing material and adequate use zones are not provided for the arch climbers on the south playground. The required use zone for the equipment is six (6) feet.

To reduce the potential for a serious injury, the arch climbers should be provided with adequate use zones and additional surfacing material.

Please note:

A survey of your premises, equipment and operations has been undertaken for the purpose of supporting the functions of risk underwriting. The information contained within this report is intended to assist you with your risk management efforts but should not be construed as an attempt to address all possible safety-related exposures within your school entity, nor is it intended as a substitute for advice from a safety expert or legal counsel you may retain for your own purposes. The recommendations stated are not intended to supplant any legal duty you may have to provide safe premises, workplace, product or operations.

In order to reduce the severity of falls from the climbers, approved surfacing material, of a depth recommended by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and within the designated use zone.

Montgomery Elementary School

REMOVE/REPLACE FIBER ROPE SWING – SWING SET;

18-10 At the time of my visit, an unbranded blue swing was installed with fiber rope on the playground swing set. This equipment is not designed for commercial use and the ropes are highly prone to weathering and fraying. To reduce the risk of injury caused by equipment failure the swing should be removed and replaced with a swing that meets the requirements of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety standard 5.3.8.

INADEQUATE SURFACING MATERIAL & USE ZONES - SWING SETS;

18-11 Surfacing material and adequate use zones are not provided for at the swing sets. The required use zone to the front and rear of a swing set is two times the height of the swing pivot point.

To reduce the potential for a serious injury, the swing sets should be provided with an adequate use zone and additional surfacing material.

In order to reduce the severity of falls from the swing sets, approved surfacing material, of a depth recommended by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and within the designated use zone.

A copy of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Public Playground Safety Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and within the designated use zone. can be downloaded at <http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/122149/325.pdf>

INADEQUATE SURFACING MATERIAL & USE ZONES – PLAY UNIT;

18-12 Surfacing material and adequate use zones are not provided for the play unit on the playground. The required use zone for the equipment is six (6) feet.

To reduce the potential for a serious injury, the play unit should be provided with adequate use zones and additional surfacing material.

Please note:

A survey of your premises, equipment and operations has been undertaken for the purpose of supporting the functions of risk underwriting. The information contained within this report is intended to assist you with your risk management efforts but should not be construed as an attempt to address all possible safety-related exposures within your school entity, nor is it intended as a substitute for advice from a safety expert or legal counsel you may retain for your own purposes. The recommendations stated are not intended to supplant any legal duty you may have to provide safe premises, workplace, product or operations.

In order to reduce the severity of falls from the play unit, approved surfacing material, of a depth recommended by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and within the designated use zone.

INADEQUATE SURFACING MATERIAL & USE ZONES – VERTICAL CLIMBER;

18-13 Surfacing material and adequate use zones are not provided for the vertical climber on the playground. The required use zone for the equipment is six (6) feet.

To reduce the potential for a serious injury, the vertical climber should be provided with adequate use zones and additional surfacing material.

In order to reduce the severity of falls from the vertical climber, approved surfacing material, of a depth recommended by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and within the designated use zone.

INADEQUATE SURFACING MATERIAL & USE ZONES – JUNGLE GYM;

18-14 Surfacing material and adequate use zones are not provided for the jungle gym on the playground. The required use zone for the equipment is six (6) feet.

To reduce the potential for a serious injury, the jungle gym should be provided with adequate use zones and additional surfacing material.

In order to reduce the severity of falls from the jungle gym, approved surfacing material, of a depth recommended by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and within the designated use zone.

INADEQUATE SURFACING MATERIAL & USE ZONES – HORIZONTAL LADDER;

18-15 Surfacing material and adequate use zones are not provided for the horizontal ladder climber on the playground. The required use zone for the equipment is six (6) feet.

To reduce the potential for a serious injury, the ladder climber should be provided with adequate use zones and additional surfacing material.

In order to reduce the severity of falls from the ladder climber, approved surfacing material, of a depth recommended by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and within the designated use zone.

Please note:

A survey of your premises, equipment and operations has been undertaken for the purpose of supporting the functions of risk underwriting. The information contained within this report is intended to assist you with your risk management efforts but should not be construed as an attempt to address all possible safety-related exposures within your school entity, nor is it intended as a substitute for advice from a safety expert or legal counsel you may retain for your own purposes. The recommendations stated are not intended to supplant any legal duty you may have to provide safe premises, workplace, product or operations.

Mountain View Elementary School

REPAIR/REPLACE ROCK WALL ACCESS PIECE – PLAY UNIT;

18-16 The rock wall access piece connected to the play unit has an approximately 8-inch crack along one of the steps. This condition could allow the two sections to separate, which increases the risk of injuries. To reduce this risk the equipment manufacturer should be contacted to provide a replacement piece.

HEAD ENTRAPMENT HAZARD – PLAY UNIT;

18-17 The openings between the barrier and the top of the slide located in the play unit present a head and general entrapment hazard to individuals playing on the structure. Openings in playground equipment must be smaller than 3.5 inches or greater than 9-inches. These openings are approximately 4.5-inches.

In order to reduce the potential for head entrapment, which could result in death, the barrier should be adjusted to reduce the opening to 3.5 inches or less and re-fastened.

REINSTALL BLUE SLIDE SUPPORT – PLAY UNIT;

18-18 At the time of my visit I noticed that the support under the blue “J” shaped slide was not installed with a bolt. This condition could allow the two sections to separate, which increases the risk of injuries. To reduce this risk the support should be reinstalled correctly.

WORN CHAINS AND SEATS – SWING SET;

18-19 At the time of my visit the swing chains were heavily worn on the top link. In addition, the swing seats were also worn and cracked. To reduce the risk of injury caused by potential equipment failure, the worn swing seats and chains should be replaced.

INADEQUATE USE ZONE - SWING SET;

18-20 Adequate use zones are not provided for the swing set near pavement. This includes a “No Smoking” sign in front of one of the swings. An adequate use zone to the front and rear of a swing set, as determined by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, is equal to two times the height of the swing pivot point. To reduce the possibility of injury due to the current inadequate use zones, the sign should be removed.

Please note:

A survey of your premises, equipment and operations has been undertaken for the purpose of supporting the functions of risk underwriting. The information contained within this report is intended to assist you with your risk management efforts but should not be construed as an attempt to address all possible safety-related exposures within your school entity, nor is it intended as a substitute for advice from a safety expert or legal counsel you may retain for your own purposes. The recommendations stated are not intended to supplant any legal duty you may have to provide safe premises, workplace, product or operations.

St. Thomas Elementary School – South Playground

SPRING TRUCK CLIMBER – REINSTALL SPRING;

18-21 One of the springs located on the back of the truck climber is no longer installed correctly on the spring perch. This condition creates a crush point under the back of the climber. To reduce the risk of injuries the spring should be properly reinstalled on the spring perch.

HEAD ENTRAPMENT HAZARD - METAL SLIDE;

18-22 The openings between the platform and hand rails of the metal sliding board presents head entrapment hazards as determined by using testing templates conforming to the guidelines of the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

In order to reduce the potential for head entrapment, which could result in death, one of the following actions should be taken: (1.) contact the manufacturer and have necessary modifications made to meet the guidelines of the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; (2.) dismantle and remove the sliding boards.

INADEQUATE SURFACING MATERIAL & USE ZONES - SWING SETS;

18-23 Surfacing material and adequate use zones are not provided for at the swing set on the south playground. The required use zone to the front and rear of a swing set is two times the height of the swing pivot point.

To reduce the potential for a serious injury, the swing set should be provided with an adequate use zone and additional surfacing material.

In order to reduce the severity of falls from the swing set, approved surfacing material, of a depth recommended by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and within the designated use zone.

HEAD ENTRAPMENT HAZARDS – PLAY UNIT;

18-24 The openings between the barrier and the top of the slide located in the play unit present a head and general entrapment hazard to individuals playing on the structure. In addition, the yellow barrier next to the top of the slide has an opening that presents a head entrapment hazard between the barrier and standing platform. Openings in playground equipment must be smaller than 3.5 inches or greater than 9-inches. These openings are approximately 4.5-inches.

Please note:

A survey of your premises, equipment and operations has been undertaken for the purpose of supporting the functions of risk underwriting. The information contained within this report is intended to assist you with your risk management efforts but should not be construed as an attempt to address all possible safety-related exposures within your school entity, nor is it intended as a substitute for advice from a safety expert or legal counsel you may retain for your own purposes. The recommendations stated are not intended to supplant any legal duty you may have to provide safe premises, workplace, product or operations.

In order to reduce the potential for head entrapment, which could result in death, the barriers should be adjusted to reduce the opening to 3.5 inches or less and re-fastened.

St. Thomas Elementary School – North Playground

INADEQUATE SURFACING MATERIAL & USE ZONES - SWING SETS;

18-25 Surfacing material and adequate use zones are not provided for at the swing set on the north playground. The required use zone to the front and rear of a swing set is two times the height of the swing pivot point.

To reduce the potential for a serious injury, the swing set should be provided with an adequate use zone and additional surfacing material.

In order to reduce the severity of falls from the swing set, approved surfacing material, of a depth recommended by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook For Public Playground Safety, should be provided under and within the designated use zone.

HEAD ENTRAPMENT HAZARDS – PLAY UNIT;

18-26 The openings between the access platforms and the yellow barriers located in the play unit present a head and general entrapment hazard to students playing on the structure. In addition, the opening between the first and second rung of the overhead ladder climber on the play unit is a head entrapment hazard. Openings in playground equipment must be smaller than 3.5 inches or greater than 9-inches. These openings vary between 5-8 inches. In addition, there are numerous protrusion hazards under the platforms where the bolt threads protrude approximately 1-inch. Bolt thread should not be exposed more than two-threads.

In order to reduce the potential for head entrapment, which could result in death, one of the following actions should be taken: (1.) contact the manufacturer and have necessary modifications made to meet the guidelines of the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; (2.) dismantle and remove the equipment.

Please note:

A survey of your premises, equipment and operations has been undertaken for the purpose of supporting the functions of risk underwriting. The information contained within this report is intended to assist you with your risk management efforts but should not be construed as an attempt to address all possible safety-related exposures within your school entity, nor is it intended as a substitute for advice from a safety expert or legal counsel you may retain for your own purposes. The recommendations stated are not intended to supplant any legal duty you may have to provide safe premises, workplace, product or operations.