

Catholic Mutual. . ."CARES"

SCHOOL SAFETY

PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Inspections should be conducted on a frequent, regularly scheduled basis. Following are some of the danger points that should be checked on each inspection:

- Visible cracks, bending, warping, rusting, or breakage of any component
- Deformation of open hooks, shackles, rings, links, etc.
- Worn swing hangers and chains
- Missing, damaged, or loose swing seats; heavy seats with sharp edges or corners
- Broken supports/anchors
- Footings exposed, cracked, loose in ground
- Accessible sharp edges or points
- Exposed ends of tubing that should be covered by plugs or caps
- Protruding bolt ends that do not have smooth finished caps and covers
- Loose bolts, nuts, etc.
- Splintered, cracked or otherwise deteriorated wood
- Lack of lubrication on moving parts
- Worn bearings
- Broken or missing rails, steps, rungs, seats
- Cushioning material thin or scattered under equipment and in landing pits *
- Hard surfaces, especially under swings, slides, etc.
- Chipped or peeling paint
- Vandalism (broken glass, trash, etc.)
- Pinch or crush points (exposed mechanisms, junctures of moving components, e.g., axis of seesaw)
- Tripping hazards such as roots, rocks or other environmental obstacles
- Poor drainage areas

* The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has established safety standards for playground surfaces. A minimum 9-12 inch depth of cushioning material (sand, pea gravel, wood chips, etc.) should be in place under all playground equipment where there is a potential fall from heights.