



# Utica National Risk Management Alert

## Important Safety Guidelines to Consider About Inflatable Amusement Rides

As the popularity of inflatable amusement rides has continued to increase over the years, the number of corresponding injuries has risen, too. For that reason, safety guidelines are not just a good idea, they are absolutely necessary for the wellbeing of your students.

According to the most recent report from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), incident data from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) indicated an estimated annual average of 16,903 injuries associated with inflatable amusements over a 10-year period. (*CPSC Safety Bulletin*)

Following all manufacturer's instructions for set-up and use, along with the guidelines of the rental company and your own school safety rules, can help you prevent an injury at your next school event.

### Utica National recommends the following before you get started:

- Rent from a reputable company that maintains their own liability insurance
  - Renting is preferred to purchasing your own to avoid the liability exposures associated with the ownership and maintenance
  - Request a Certificate of Insurance that confirms at least a \$1 million General Liability limit
  - Do not agree to name the rental company as an Additional Insured on your policy
- Do not sign a liability waiver release unless approved by your attorney and insurance agent
  - Many rental contracts contain a waiver/release which states, in part, that the customer assumes all responsibility for injuries to persons or damages to property, and agrees to release and hold the rental company harmless for any and all claims
- Whenever possible, require the rental company to be responsible for set up, supervision and take-down

### If you have received the approval of your attorney and insurance agent, and have signed a contract for services, then:

- Choose an appropriate location on grass and away from fences, powerlines or any other obstructions
- Monitor the weather in advance of your event, and continuously throughout, and prohibit usage during rain or high winds (20+ mph – taken from *CPSC Safety Bulletin*) – remove everyone from the inflatable and turn off the motor until the weather clears
- Adult supervision, whether provided by the rental company or not, is required at all times. This is an important responsibility – don't just stand near the inflatable, active supervision must be maintained
- Review rules of use with students
- Monitor all users during entry to ensure weight restrictions and safety guidelines are being met
  - Remove shoes, jewelry, glasses or other objects that can cause injury
  - Remove sharp objects in pockets that can cause injury or damage
  - At any given time, all participants should be similar in size (e.g., Do not mix toddlers with 8 year olds) (*CPSC Safety Bulletin*)

**For more information please contact your independent Utica National agent.**

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