

Bounce House Safety!

Reducing the risks of potential injury

*(The following safety tips and information were obtained, in part, from the **Safe Inflatable Operators Training Organization.**)*

As an organization charged with providing and supervising a safe environment for our children, operators of inflatable Bounce Houses are responsible to take the necessary steps to insure a safe and enjoyable experience for them.

**- Supervision! Supervision! Supervision! -
We can't say it enough . . . Supervision is imperative!**

Individuals in charge of operating Bounce Houses should be responsible adults, trained in inflatable operations.

1. No matter what surface you use, a tarp must be placed on the ground to protect the bottom of the unit.
2. The unit should be staked down or heavily weighted down with ground weights or sandbags
3. The unit is to be fully inflated and not sagging anywhere.
4. When the unit is inflated, it should be inspected for rips or holes.
5. A knowledgeable, responsible adult should be in attendance/supervision at all times.
6. Children age 3 and under are NOT to be ALLOWED inside the unit.
7. All children are to be grouped according to SIZE.
8. **DO NOT** exceed the maximum ride capacity at any time.
9. Perform safety checks of the equipment frequently.
10. Turn the unit off during inclement weather or high winds.
11. **DO NOT** use extension cords.
12. If the Bounce House ever does collapse, be sure to remove all the children immediately.
13. Follow all Safety Rules at all times.
14. Seek medical attention for ALL injuries, should they occur.
15. It is helpful for the Supervisor to be trained in CPR and first aid.

***These simple tips will help keep our operation safe.
Remember. . . Safety First, Safety Always!
Safety is everyone's job!***

Bounce House Safety . . .

OTHER REMINDERS

Cleanliness

Bounce houses get really dirty! Take the time to properly clean and sanitize the bounce House between uses.

Sanitize? Yes - this is important. Bounces are active places full of little people bouncing against the floors, walls, and pillars in hot conditions- often face first and loving it! You want to feel secure that the surfaces they are coming in contact with are clean and germ-free.

Review all Operating Procedures Ahead of Time

Review operating and safety procedures: things like what to do if it rains or gets windy, what to do if the power goes out, how many kids are allowed at a time, etc. It is also best to be prepared in case the weather changes or anything else unexpected happens.

Setup Area

Bounce Houses cannot be set up on a slope! You will need a relatively flat area—at least five feet (5') bigger all around than the size of the inflatable. It's best to make sure you have enough room ahead of time by measuring or at least walking off the area so that you don't have to rearrange your plans at the last minute.

Check for bushes or tree branches in the way and make sure there are no power lines or overhanging branches overhead.

Clear the area of rocks, twigs, pinecones, or other obstructions and check for fire-ant hills, dog leave-behinds, or anything else that might be in the way.

And watch out for the irrigation system!

What type of accidents can occur in an inflatable?

According to information cited from the *Consumer Product Safety Commission*, there were an estimated **2,500 injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms** in **2002**. These injuries resulted from problems with inflatable rides, slides, and bounce houses. Inflatable rides accounted for an estimated **4,300 injuries** requiring hospital **emergency room visits** in **2003**, the most recent year for which statistics are available. Back in 1997, there were only 1,300 injuries.

According to the *Consumer Products Safety Commission*, the following is a list of common hazards in inflatable amusement attraction-related incidents:

- Collision of one person with another, especially a larger child with a smaller one, when several children are jumping or sliding at the same time.
- Falling out of a jumping balloon or off an inflatable slide onto a hard object outside the attraction device.
- Catching a foot or other appendage in some part of the attraction while jumping.
- Jumping or sliding head down or attempting flips with a resulting head or neck injury.
- Wind gusts unexpectedly blowing over an inadequately secured inflatable attraction thereby throwing children onto the ground or other objects.
- Rapid deflation of an inflatable slide upon fan power loss causing children to fall onto the ground or other object.
- Blow-overs and collapses due to equipment failure or improper setup can, and do, cause catastrophic accidents.
- Inadequate supervision increases the danger of broken bones and dislocations. Allowing younger children to jump with older children is the most common safety hazard cited by safety officials.