

Don't Let an Inflatable Deflate Your Safety Record

If your center uses inflatable environments to supplement outdoor play, be aware that inadequate supervision or maintenance can result in severe injury.

All staff members should read the manufacturer's guidelines before they are allowed to supervise activities in an inflatable environment. Owners and directors should also read these guidelines to validate that staff members are adequately supervising and maintaining the area.

ASTM Standard F2374-06 provides additional guidelines for inflatable environments:

- Follow the manufacturer's requirements for environmental conditions, including location, surface material, and weather. Do not use the inflatable if wind speeds are greater than 25 mph.
- Observe all warnings posted on the inflatable.
- Do not exceed the maximum capacity by weight, height, age, or number of users. Many injuries result from a larger child falling on a smaller one.
- Follow the manufacturer's maintenance guidelines and keep a service log or checklist to document your efforts.
- Provide a protective ground cover around the inflatable, such as gym mats.
- Anchor and secure the inflatable in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Also provide appropriate barriers around the inflatable.
- Use whistles or other devices and take appropriate action at the first sign of misbehavior or violation of posted rules.
- Verify and document that all operators receive training.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.