

Gates County School Maintenance January Newsletter



Safety

Playground Safety Facts and Statistics

Approximately 15% of the injuries were classified as severe, with 3% requiring hospitalization.

The most prevalent diagnoses were fractures (39%), lacerations (22%), contusions/abrasions (20%), strains/sprains (11%).

Falls to the surface was a contributing factor in 79% of all injuries. On home equipment, 81% were associated with falls.

Most injuries on public playground equipment were associated with climbing equipment (53%), swings (19%), and slides (17%).

Based on these statistics and other research, the National Program for Playground Safety advocates that:

- Adults actively supervise the children in the play environment.
- Adults choose appropriate developmental equipment for the play environment.
- Adults provide safe surfacing in the public use area playground equipment.
- Adults insure that all equipment and surfacing located in the children's play areas be maintained on a regular basis and a minimum of 9 inches deep around all equipment.
- 61% of the injuries happened on public playground equipment
- 67% involved falls or equipment failure
- 8% hazards around but not related to the equipment
- 7% collisions with other children or the equipment
- 7% entrapments

Forty Deaths were associated with playground equipment between 2001-2008.

- Average age was 6 years; median age was 4 years.
- 27 deaths were the result of hangings or other asphyxiations
- 7 deaths were the result of head or neck injuries

Source: CPSC October 29, 2009

Top four equipment pieces associated with injuries

- Climbers- 23%
- Swings- 22%
- Slides-17%
- Overhead ladders- 9%

Next Safety Meeting January 21, 2014

Safety training covered on December 18, 2013

Work Place Violence

Asbestos /lead

Pest Management

Shop Talk

Energy Saving

Lighting

Turn off lights when not in use—lighting accounts for nearly 50% of the electric bill in most schools. There's no reason to leave lights on if a room is empty for more than one minute. (And, yes, this applies to the new energy-efficient fluorescent lights.)

Computers

If your school computers have power-management features, make sure controls are set so they will go into the "sleep" mode when not in active use. (Screen savers don't save energy—only the sleep mode does) ensure that the computer monitors are off when not in use.

Custodial Staff **Safety and Health**

Not only must custodians maintain schools physical facilities, but they are often responsible for school security as well. At the same time, custodians are exposed to many occupational hazards, from working on ladders and staging to dealing with hazardous chemicals and contagious diseases. Custodians are the first line of defense of public health in our schools, according to school custodian and 2009 C.L.E.A.N. By cleaning for health, not for appearance, custodians can have a big impact on student and staff health and student achievement. School district has its own security staff; custodians bear a large responsibility for building security. Custodians are also often in a position to observe student behavior and spot drugs/potential problems settings where there are no teachers. Custodians can often and should inform Principals of these issues. In more ways than imaginable, custodians and maintenance workers make a profound impact on student's everyday it's all about helping these children succeed in school and in life. This job is about teamwork and enjoying what you do.

**Questions please contact Joe Harrell at:
harrelljd@gatescountyschools.net**

