

HAZARD ALERT

INFLATABLE AMUSEMENT DEVICES

26 August 2022

REFERENCES:

WHS Act 2012, s 17 Management of Risks,
WHS Regulations 2012 Chapter 3 General risk and workplace management
CCES Procedure 14: Hazard Management

OBJECTIVE:

Prohibit use of outdoor Inflatable Amusement Devices across all Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc sites until further notice. This includes devices such as bouncy castles and zorb balls.

BACKGROUND:

In January 2022 CSH&W SA issued a Hazard Alert due to a December 2021 incident at a school in Tasmania where a bouncy castle became airborne, resulting in multiple fatalities. After discussion at a recent WHS Coordinators Meeting it was decided to reissue this hazard alert and expand the prohibition to zorb balls.

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

Refer to attached Hazard Alert 52 issued by the Department for Education, December 2021.

If an inflatable amusement device is to be used indoors, a risk assessment must be completed and documented. A sample is available at: <https://www.cshwsa.org.au/download/1519/>

Further information can be found at:

- SafeWork SA [inflatable amusement devices](#) or
- Education Standards Board [Safe use of bouncy castles during vacation care | Education Standards Board SA \(esb.sa.gov.au\)](#)



For enquiries or further information, please contact your WHS Consultant at CSHWSA or ring the CSHWSA Office on 8215 6850



ALERT

Urgent information for Education staff

HAZARD ALERT 52 – Inflatable amusement devices

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Inflatable amusement devices can become airborne in strong winds, particularly if they are not correctly set up and anchored to the ground. Users are at risk of death or serious injury if an inflatable device becomes airborne when in use.

Inflatable amusement devices include:

- all flexible air-filled structures that are inflated using blowers and rely on air pressure to maintain their shape
- for example, inflatable devices designed for users to bounce, slide or climb on, including bouncy castles, slides (including inflatable water slides), mazes, bungee runs and obstacle courses.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Outdoor use of all inflatable amusement devices is prohibited at all Department for Education sites until further notice. This applies to all users of department sites, including OSHC and vacation care services and anyone hiring department facilities for private use.

Many inflatable amusement devices are suitable for indoor use, particularly in large spaces such as school halls or gyms. There is no prohibition on indoor use provided the manufacturer has specified that the device is suitable for use indoors and it is set up and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

If you wish to hire an inflatable amusement device for indoor use, please seek advice from the hire company on suitability and minimum space requirements before booking. Only electrically powered fans may be used to inflate devices indoors.

FURTHER INFORMATION

See guidance from SafeWork SA on [inflatable amusement devices](#) for further information about requirements for safe operation and use.

For more information, contact Work Health and Safety on 8226 1440 or email: education.whs@sa.gov.au

This Hazard Alert is provided to offer safety guidance for sites. It is not a statement of law and must not be construed to waive or modify any legal obligation.

Figure 1: Examples of inflatable amusement devices

