



Fairbanks North Star Borough

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June 7, 2019

To: Mike Bork, Parks & Recreation Director
Heather Heineken, FNSB School District Risk Liaison

From: Sallie Stuvek, Human Resources Director
Jennifer Martel, Acting Risk Manager *JMM*

Re: Inflatable use on Borough property

Due to the expanded and growing presence of inflatable devices (these go beyond the typical bounce house to include: arches, displays, games, slides, obstacle courses, etc.), the demand for these activities, and the presence of two local vendors, the borough has assessed the risks related to the use of inflatable devices on Borough property, and issues you the following policy guidelines.

Inflatable attractions like bounce houses, obstacle courses, and slides have increased in popularity and availability. With the increased availability of inflatable devices and play equipment the number of injuries has also increased. The majority of major inflatable accidents are the result of improper anchoring, high winds, and lack of appropriate supervision. But most injuries occur because operators are careless during setup, children aren't supervised, and guidelines for safe play aren't followed.

Policy Guidance

- A. Inflatable play devices which users climb on or into, such as a bouncy house, obstacle course, and slides are not allowed on Borough property (includes School District). The only exception to this policy is if Borough property is under a long term lease arrangement through the Land Management Division and the lease does not prohibit this activity/use.
- B. The Borough allows the use of inflatables on Borough property that are NOT meant to be climbed on or in such as inflatable displays, arches, and games, under the following conditions/safety requirements:
 1. Inflatable vendors must be licensed and insured, and comply with all insurance requirements as established by Risk Management PRIOR to setting up inflatables on Borough premises. If the inflatable vendor is not the primary contracting party with the Borough, they must be listed as a party to the contract.
 2. Inflatable vendors must identify a primary person (Controller) responsible for being on-site for the set-up and use. The contact information must be provided

to Parks & Recreation or School District (depending upon event location), and Risk Management PRIOR to the event.

3. Parks & Recreation or School District (depending upon event location) will require facility users to notify the Borough if they plan to contract with a vendor on Borough premises and get Risk Management approval PRIOR to the event.
4. The use will be restricted to specific locations as determined by the Parks and Recreation department or School District (depending upon event location) after consideration of potential placement issues related to the terrain, flow of foot traffic, layout of these inflatables, and use.
5. Vendors of inflatable devices are required to conform to the following rules in order to provide service on Borough property.

	Potential Hazards	Industry Recommended Mitigating Actions that must be followed by Vendors
1	Instability and blowing away in windy conditions;	Inflatables must be used in accordance with manufacturer's requirements and are not to be used when the wind or gusts are in excess of 15 mph. If the manufacturer's requirements for the specific inflatable being used are less than 15 mph, that standard shall apply. If wind picks up and exceeds these standards, the inflatable devices shall be immediately closed.
1a		The size, number and strength of anchorage points must be adequate for the structure and comply with manufacturer's requirements.
2	Tripping (particularly over anchorages);	Anchorage - Structures should be provided with an adequate anchorage and/or ballast system, per manufacturer's requirements.
2a		Access/egress - When it is necessary to have anchorage points near to an entrance/exit, they should be connected in such a way as to minimize the danger of tripping, abrasion or other injuries. Anchorage points, cords or other devices may not cross footpaths or pedestrian routes.
3	Access to dangerous (parts of) machinery (i.e. inadequately protected, or unguarded blower units);	Blowers – Blower units must be secured so that users cannot access or come into contact with them.
4	Electrical hazards (shock or burns);	Blowers – These must be suitably guarded at inlet and outlet.
4a		Electrical Cords - These should be appropriately rated to carry necessary electrical load, in good condition, out of the flow of traffic, and secured in place. No crossing of footpaths or pedestrian routes.

5		Location – The Controller must ensure that the inflatable device is sited well away from possible hazards such as overhead powerlines or other obstacles with hazardous projections (fences).
6	Device footprint within greater event area;	Location - The Controller must ensure the device is sited such that there is sufficient room for participants to utilize the device without obstructing foot traffic through the event or access/egress in case of emergency.
7	Boisterous behavior, overcrowding or not separating larger users from smaller ones	<p>Controller or Attendant – Controller or Attendant will ensure safe use rules are enforced. Controller or Attendants shall be trained, at a minimum, on proper and safe use of the inflatable device, methods of crowd control, ensuring equipment is not overloaded with users, watching for safety hazards, communicating safety instructions on clothing/shoe use, monitoring wind speeds, etc.</p> <p>The Controller shall ensure that the number of attendants present are sufficient to manage the number of participants.</p>

Vendors failing to comply with the requirements stated herein will not be allowed to continue to provide inflatable related services on Borough property.

The Borough reserves the right to disallow or modify these rules at its discretion.

cc: Bryce Ward, Borough Mayor
Jim Williams, Chief of Staff
Wendy Dau, Assistant Borough Attorney
Donnie Hayes, Pioneer Park