

Risk Management Considerations – Jumping Castle Activities

When reviewing Jumping Castle Activities the following is a guide only of areas to consider – Please note the exposures will differ depending on the defined event or activity as there are many variables that must be taken into consideration. You should complete a specific risk assessment to highlight, assess, control and monitor hazards associated with each activity at each location.

Areas for consideration in your Risk Assessment

- What are the manufacturer’s guidelines for the use of the Jumping Castle? Ensure you have a copy and that you meet these requirements.
- Adequate training must be provided to all persons responsible for setting up, deflating, monitoring and maintaining the Jumping Castle. Protocols and Guidelines in relation to these processes should be documented to assist in this process.
- Documented operational checklists for utilisation during Jumping Castle equipment use should be considered in addition to formalised risk assessment and controls.
- Where will the Jumping Castle be erected?
- Will the activity be conducted at the same location? Or will it change?
- How will you determine the most suitable location to set up the Jumping Castle? Do you have location selection criteria?
- Consider specific hazards associated with the location such as; falling tree branches, overhead and nearby electrical and telephone cables, high wind areas (does the manufacturer specify safe wind speeds that the unit can be used within), is the area maintained in a clean condition?
- Is the location cleaned regularly could it contain litter such as broken glass, hypodermic needles, cans, rusted material, nails? Suggest a cleaning program prior to Jumping Castle set up.
- Ensure no rocks or other hard surfaces are present under or in the area that children disembark the jumping castle.
- Ensure the area that the Jumping Castle is erected and the entry and exit areas are free from pot hole, divots, free from debris, dry and that the ground is stable. Ensure a clear area around the Jumping Castle.
- Under what conditions will the activity be cancelled? Wind, storm, severe heat, severe cold?
- Consider the impact of wind, storm and temperature on the safe operation of the activity.
- Is first aid equipment available, well maintained and are several staff present that have current first aid training?
- In the event of a serious injury such as back or spine – how far away are emergency services? Are mobile phone and or landline services available at the location?
- Collision risk – is the jumping castle and the disembarking area located in a separate area away from traffic and other heavy machinery hazards for

example at a fete vehicles setting up stalls, third party vehicles visiting the site?

- Consider traffic management and children leaving and entering the Jumping Castle.
- What are the guidelines in relation to the use of the Jumping Castle?
- Consider the age of participants on the jumping castle, minimum, maximum. Restricting users into specific age groups such as 1-3, 4-7, 8 and above
- Consider the number of children permitted on the Jumping Castle at any one time – refer to manufacturer’s guidelines.
- Consider rules in relation to No kicking, No Jumping into people, No jumping on/off the walls, No hanging from any wall all overhead covering, No equipment allowed on the Jumping Castle, No eating or drinking, no gum or any other choking hazards etc.
- What signage will be erected at the entrance to the Jumping Castle to convey rules and safety precautions?
- Ensure safety mats and padding is appropriate for exit and entrance to the jumping Castle. Water should be removed from these surfaces to minimise slip and trip exposures.
- How will you ensure the Jumping Castle is supervised at all times?
- Infectious Disease Control – how is the jumping castle cleaned following use? What would occur in the event that a child got motion sickness and vomited on the jumping castle or was injured and was bleeding on the jumping castle?
- How do you ensure spills and water do not make the Jumping Castle slippery? Clean up protocols.
- How will the jumping castle be maintained to ensure it is operating in an effective and safe manner? Inspections for holes, stitching integrity, anchorage points suitable, electrical cables, sockets, plugs etc.?
- How is the blower powered? Consider specific hazards associated with this for example in the event that the blower is operated by an engine consider maintenance, fuel as an ignition source, chemical safety etc.
- Are there instructions on how to use, set up and pack down the Jumping Castle including the risk assessment and how to control such hazards during utilisation?
- Is there a copy of manufacturer’s instructions to ensure the Jumping Castle is filled to the correct air pressure with the correct blower unit?
- Set up and pack down protocols for the Jumping Castle?
- Tripping over anchorage ropes – are they fitted with fluorescent or brightly coloured flags to highlight their presence? Is walking around the Jumping Castle restricted by bollards etc.?
- How is the Jumping Castle to be anchored? Are the number and type of anchors adequate? How are anchors maintained? Are they inspected for fraying etc.?
- How is the blower unit maintained? Is access to dangerous parts of the blower restricted whilst in use? For example so a child can’t place their hand in or near the unit. Is machinery guarded for such purposes?
- Is the blower checked during use to ensure no litter or other waste material is blocking blower unit including material that may cause a fire hazard?

- Is the blower tested and tagged (as per the Australian Standard) and maintained to ensure electrical safety? How the blower is maintained and is it on a preventative maintenance schedule and inspected by a qualified technician?
- Guidelines on the removal of jewellery prior to entry as it can cause injury if it becomes externally attached.
- Guidelines on the removal of shoes and other objects that could provide a hazard.
- Is the Jumping Castle designed in a manner that allows easy adult supervision so that the inside of the unit is not obscured from visibility? If so consider how this can be controlled.
- Utilising the Jumping Castle only if fit to do so consider pre-existing injuries.
- How will children with special needs be supported to utilise the activity?
- Ensure no drugs, alcohol or medication is consumed prior to undertaking this activity - may impair reaction times, drowsiness, vision, balance, judgement etc.
- Obtain safety inspections and certificates where required.
- In the event the unit collapses have you considered entrapment and suffocation?
- Has crowd control around the Jumping Castle been considered?
- Is the unit fitted to an RCD? (Residual current Device)
- How will you ensure that electrical equipment by different uses does not overload supply and that it is safe?
- In the event of an accident follow incident and accident reporting guidelines.
- Other location and Jumping Castle unit specific hazards
- Is a contractor conducting the activity? What is your contractor selection process? Do you have a preferred Supplier List? Is this contractor a preferred supplier? Ensure you have a contract in place with your contractor. Ensure your contractor has Health, Safety and Environment Guidelines. Ask your contractor how they will ensure the safety of participants? What are their requirements in relation to supervisor/number of participants on the activity? Assess your contractors competency this may include - What competencies do they have to complete the task - qualifications/training. How often do they conduct this activity? Will warning signs and instructions be erected at the point of entry to the activity? Do they have any references you can contact? How does the contractor select the location for the activity on site? Obtain a copy of the contractors risk assessment in relation to the activity including the specific location the activities are to be conducted. Does the contractor have insurance ask them to provide a certificate of currency - Public Liability Insurance, Professional Indemnity and Workers Compensation Insurance should be considered. Induction, Training, instruction and supervision information that will be provided during the activity. Details on First Aid and equipment maintenance on equipment that will be provided. Working with children check and constant supervision whilst on site. Ask for copies of documents to place on the contractors file and to support your Contractor Selection Process.

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