

# What's the Risk?

## Playground Equipment



### THE ISSUE

Each year, a significant number of children under 15 years old receive treatment for playground-related injuries. Falls account for up to 80% of the injuries on playground structures, while entrapment and entanglement are responsible for almost all fatalities. Numerous commercial and agri-tourism operations offer playground equipment, which may be professionally engineered and installed or homemade.



### WHAT'S THE RISK?

Play structures can pose a danger due to protrusions, sharp edges, crush and shear risks, and looping or suspension hazards. Even compliant and properly installed playgrounds can become dangerous if not regularly maintained and inspected.



### WHAT CAN BE DONE?

To decrease the risk of injury, use the following recommendations:

- Ensure playground equipment meets the current CSA Z614 standard. CSA Z614 contains recommendations on technical requirements and practices applicable to the design, manufacture/construction, installation, maintenance, and inspection of public-use playground equipment and play spaces.
- Ensure all homemade playground equipment is inspected by a structural engineer to ensure it's integrity as per the code.
- Use proper surfacing and depth beneath equipment such as engineered wood fibers, rubber, sand or pea stone.
- Supervise children. Do not allow foreign objects such as skipping ropes, dog leashes, bike helmets or clothing with drawstrings to be brought onto any playground structure.
- Supervise the play area to ensure only age-appropriate children are on the structures.
- Inspect play structures daily for any changes, monthly by someone who has knowledge of play structures, and annually by a professional.

