

# FOI Request - Playground Equipment Condition – 101003980253



## Risk Assessment

**Area/Issue Being Assessed:** Inspecting Play Equipment

**Service:** Open Space

**Assessment Date:** 25/3/24

**Consultees:** Playground Maintenance Fitters

**Review Date:** 23/03/2027

**Assessor:**

**Post:** Technical Officer

**Reviewer:** 28.03.24

**Post:** Open Space Manager

**BACKGROUND:  
ie, why is the assessment  
being carried out?**

The Playground Maintenance Fitters are required to carry out routine (monthly) and ad hoc inspections on a number of play area items of equipment (including but not restricted to metal, wooden and plastic climbing units/rotating items/swings/see saws etc.) and ancillary items (fencing/gates/benches) and play area surfacing. Inspectors are trained as soon as is reasonably practicable and registered as Outdoor Operational Play Inspectors with the RPII register of play inspectors international)

Monthly inspection is in addition to an independent annual inspection which forms the risk assessment for each individual play area. The annual inspection is carried out by a suitably trained outdoor annual inspector registered with the RPII (register of play inspectors international)

TASK #	DETAILS OF HAZARD, ie, how might someone be harmed?	PERSON(S) AFFECTED	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	ADDITIONAL MEASURES REQUIRED TO MINIMISE RISK	ACTION TAKEN (Initial and Date)

TASK #	DETAILS OF HAZARD, ie, how might someone be harmed?	PERSON(S) AFFECTED	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	ADDITIONAL MEASURES REQUIRED TO MINIMISE RISK	ACTION TAKEN (Initial and Date)
	<p><b>Injury/harm through falls from height while inspecting multi-level climbing units/equipment over 3m in height including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broken Bones, Torn Ligaments, Dislocation, Back Injuries, Head Injuries, Sprains, Cuts, Bruising</li> </ul>	Operative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with due care and attention and spatial awareness.</li> <li>Maintain three points of contact when climbing</li> <li>Ensure you have a good hand grip and foot placement whilst climbing.</li> <li>PPE – appropriate footwear &amp; work wear for environment.</li> <li>When inspecting some of the time you are not using the equipment as it is intended to be used. Inspections only carried out by competent staff members with good knowledge of inspection procedures conforming to BSEN1176/1177</li> <li>Equipment designed for use by children so generally inspectors own body size would prevent falls through gaps in equipment.</li> <li>Two person teams to be used with ladders. Tripod ladder with individually levelling feet used where space allows (one at the bottom), ladder tied off at the top if suitable fixing point available, ladder condition inspected regularly, damaged ladders not to be used.</li> <li>Tower Scaffolds only used by competent trained operatives, assembled to manufacturer's instructions. Inspected prior to use.</li> <li>Secure footing established on loose fill (bark scraped back)</li> </ul>		

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	<p><b>Hazard/Injury received through work environment including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injury including Death, Broken Bones, Torn Ligaments, Dislocation, Back Injuries, Head Injuries, Sprains, Cuts, Bruising through contact with moving vehicles while accessing site. This effects both operatives and members of the public.</li> </ul>	Operative Member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of banksmen.</li> <li>Park vehicle in location suitable to walk into the play area from</li> <li>Hi-Viz PPE (EU 2016/425. Harmonised standards number ENISO 20471:2013+A1:2016,) to be worn</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Injury cause by work equipment including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injury from sharp edges, protruding fixings, broken edges, nips, cuts, bruising from pinch points while inspecting equipment with moving parts accessed from ground level and from multi-level equipment .</li> <li>Injury including strangulation (caught in netting/ropes)</li> <li>Bruising, stress, concussion from confined space inspection (any space not designed for human habitation) due to the (potential for entrapment due to nature of toddler equipment/climbing frame design)</li> </ul>	Operative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspections only carried out by competent staff members with good knowledge of inspection procedures and conform to BSEN1176/1177</li> <li>Plan and communicate your route in advance with team members at beginning inspection. Avoid squeezing into tight spaces. Visual inspection only for lone worker.</li> <li>Work with due care and attention, PPE – appropriate gloves (EN420:2003+A1:2009 EN388:2016) &amp; work wear for environment</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Injury through Slips, trips and falls including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broken Bones, Torn Ligaments, Dislocation, Back Injuries, Head Injuries, Sprains, Cuts, Bruising through traversing uneven or soft ground. Changes in level including kerbs and bark pit boundary edges</li> </ul>	Operative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with due care and attention and spatial awareness,</li> <li>PPE – appropriate footwear (EN ISO 20345:2011) &amp; work wear for environment.</li> </ul>		

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	<p><b>Injury from hazardous substances –</b> during examination of safety surfacing operators can come into contact with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diseases from animals and Soil borne diseases which can affect humans – working in areas where animals may be present. Including but not restricted to Anthrax (Extremely rare), Avian Influenza, salmonella, Brucellosis, E-Coli 0157, Weils Disease.</li> <li>• Needlestick injuries.</li> <li>• Contamination of existing open wounds.</li> <li>• Infection from excrement (litter/litter emptied from overturned bins)</li> </ul>	Operative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate wash facilities provided – hand wipes available. Employees not to smoke, vape, eat or drink without cleaning their hands.</li> <li>• Wear appropriate PPE including gloves (EN420:2003+A1:2009 EN388:2016)</li> <li>• Waterproof boots (EN ISO 20345:2011) – Very dirty boots should not be worn in the vehicle.</li> <li>• Grazes or cuts should be covered with a waterproof dressing.</li> <li>• Hazardous litter cleared prior to inspection being carried out, use tongs provided.</li> <li>• Glass, sharp tin edges, cleared prior to inspection being carried out, use tongs provided. Litter disposed of at licenced waste disposal site.</li> </ul>		

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	<p><b>Violence and Unacceptable Behaviour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operators may experience violence and aggression or verbal abuse from members of the public resulting in adverse mental health impact, poor moral. Following misunderstanding of the reason for the inspector's presence in the park by parents/guardians of children present. Reputational damage to Moray Council</li> </ul>	Operative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for Operators to postpone work and remove themselves from conversations with members of the public.</li> <li>Operators provided with information cards to direct customers towards the Open Space pages on the Moray Council Website. Recording form used to report incidents to Corporate H&amp;S and HR.</li> <li>Inspectors to arrive onsite in vehicle clearly marked as belonging to the 'Moray Council'. Inspectors to wear hi-viz clothing (vest or jacket) with 'Moray Council' logo on it. Inspectors to carry I.D badge at all times and introduce themselves and the reason for their visit to any parents/guardians in the play area at time of inspection.</li> <li>Inspectors in the Disclosure PVG system</li> <li>Inspectors to engage in a positive manner with parents/guardians/users of the equipment at time of inspection, while being aware of what the appropriate level of interaction is. (reluctance to engage respected)</li> </ul>		

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	<p><b>Lone working</b>  <b>Team members may be exposed to hazards associated with working on their own including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased risk of harm (identified above) from manual handling risk</li> <li>• increased risk of harm (as above) from falls from height</li> <li>• Increased risk of over exposure to HAV's and Noise</li> <li>• increased of experiencing unacceptable behaviour (as above).</li> <li>• Team members may find themselves in difficult situations or environments where help and assistance may not be close at hand.</li> <li>• Increased risk from instances of violence and aggression.</li> <li>• They may not be medically suited or the workplace itself may pose a particular risk to the worker.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance requiring two person/team lifting is scheduled for days when there is full team availability. Items made safe until this can be achieved.</li> <li>• Opportunity for work to be rescheduled for full team availability. Operatives work to their own individual exposure limits as discussed during health surveillance reviews following T3 appointments.</li> <li>• Opportunity for increased job rotation and task rotation.</li> <li>• Visual Inspection only of enclosed or equipment inaccessible without climbing</li> <li>• Work can be rescheduled if it is in a contentious area/known past incidents.</li> <li>• Team Members follow the lone working policy/procedure. Telephone provided and good signal range available to cover all areas where play fitters work.</li> <li>• Work is outside in open spaces so opportunity for team member to make site safe and then remove themselves from site.</li> <li>• Suitability for lone working discussed at ERDP.</li> </ul>	<p>Challenging situations training requested by Sarah Campbell to the Organisational Development Team for tailored course (department specific scenario examples)</p>	
	<p><b>Related Documents</b></p>	<p>BSEN 1176/1177 guide  Working at Heights Risk assessment  Waste disposal Risk assessment  Playfitters loneworking procedure  Inspecting play equipment MS</p>			

**Use the separate Action Sheet if you want to complete and action plan for any additional measures required. The Action Sheet can be located on the Health & Safety pages on the corporate interchange site.**