



WHITEHORSE  
CITY COUNCIL

# AMUSEMENT RIDES, JUMPING CASTLES AND INFLATABLES

Amusement rides, jumping castles and inflatables present one of the highest risks at events. This fact sheet will help you understand best practice around amusement rides, jumping castles and inflatables, as well as Council's requirements around set-up and operation.

## Council Requirements:

- Amusement rides, jumping castles and inflatables should be positioned at least 3m away from garden beds and any trees or roots. Structures cannot be fixed or attached to any trees or shrubs.
- Amusement rides, jumping castles and inflatables must be adequately weighted. No stakes or tent pegs are to be used.
- A 3m access route must be maintained for emergency vehicles, and a minimum of 1.8 metres on pathways for general pedestrian access.

## Safe Installation and Operation of Amusement Rides, Jumping Castles and Inflatables

If amusement rides, jumping castles and inflatables aren't installed properly, they can collapse or launch in high winds and inclement weather. This may result in injury to your guests, volunteers and staff or damage to property, trees and the ground.

### Location, Location, Location!

You will need to prepare a site plan which shows the location of all temporary infrastructure including amusement rides, jumping castles and inflatables and marquees.

### Top Tip

If you are unsure of your supplier, you can contact Work Safe Victoria via [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au).

- Before you book any inflatables or amusements ensure your supplier has up to date public liability insurance certificates of currency, ride registration and Safety Data sheets. These should be collected from all contractors.
- All inflatables and amusements must be appropriately installed and anchored in accordance with the Australian Standard and the manufacturers instructions. For more info, refer to the Safe Work Australia guide.
- Inflatables and amusements should be installed on flat, level surfaces, away from roads and overhanging branches.
- All inflatables and amusements should be checked prior to use by the public. If something doesn't look right, tell the supplier and have them rectify it.
- All inflatables and amusement operators must be over 18 years old, suitably qualified and hold a current Working with Children Check accreditation. Make sure you specify this in advance of your event and double check the operator's credentials on the day.
- Monitor the weather and switch off amusements or deflate inflatables if there are high winds or rain. The wind speed rating of the amusement will vary depending on the ride being used.
- In instances of extreme heat, inflatables should be closed to prevent heat burns.
- Work out how lines will be controlled and tickets sold and collected; will this be managed by your team or the ride operator? Clarify this with the supplier in advance of the event.
- Find out the recommended number of patrons that can use the ride at the same time, and monitor this on the day.
- It is good practice to select a supplier that is a member of the Australian Amusements Association.
- Ultimately everything that happens on your event site is your responsibility. Keep an eye on your contractors; make sure you supervise any works to ensure compliance during the set-up, event and pack-down process; and have adequate first aid trained personnel and supplies available.



Questions? Please contact the Events Officer on 9262 6352 or [arts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)



# INFLATABLES

**These inflatable requirements will help you understand best practice around the use of inflatables - including jumping castles - and the requirements for Council approval to operate these devices on Council managed land.**

Inflatables and jumping castles are a popular alternative to hard structures, but if not installed and supervised properly can be a risk to occupants and attendants. They can collapse or launch in high winds and inclement weather resulting in injury to your guests, volunteers and staff or damage to property, trees and the ground.

For an inflatable to be operated on Whitehorse City Council managed land, you will need to ensure the following:

## Operator Requirements

- Inflatables must be compliant with Australian Standard AS 3533.4.1 – Amusement rides and devices Specific requirements – Land-borne inflatable devices. The standard provides advice and guidance in relation to the design, manufacture, operation and maintenance of commercial jumping castles.
- Be aware of your responsibilities under the standard including those under Australian Standard AS 3533.3 – which gives the basis for the in-service inspection of amusement rides and devices and includes the following:
  - Post-assembly, daily, and annual inspections, and the activities of personnel involved in undertaking these inspections and the documentation required
- Ensure you have all the necessary manufacturer and supplier information and instructions on how to install, operate, maintain and inspect the equipment. Ensure that these are followed for the safe operation of the inflatable.
- Inflatables should be properly maintained with an up to date maintenance log book that is available on request.
- Inflatables must be installed on flat, level surfaces, and away from roads and overhanging branches.
- Inflatables to be set up by experienced / trained personnel.
- Provision of a post-assembly inspection report or checklist that has been conducted by the operator prior to the inflatable being opened.
- Operators of inflatables must be properly trained and experienced; hold a current Working with Children check; and must be over 18 years old,
- Operators of inflatables must remain with the inflatable at all times throughout the period of use.
- Wind speeds and weather must be regularly monitored. The inflatable must be immediately shut down according to manufacturer wind speed conditions for safe use.
- Inflatable device is to be adequately anchored and secured according to manufacturer's specifications and the Australian Standard AS 3533.4.1.



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- Adherence to the number of patrons that can safely use the device at any one time. This is based on the height, weight, age limits of the patrons.
- Adherence to safety rules at all times.
- Ensure inspections and maintenance is undertaken during the period of hire including: checks on anchors and ropes, that there are no holes or tears in the fabric, that the air pressure is sufficient for the walls of the device to remain firm and upright.

### **Hirer Requirements**

If you are hiring an inflatable to be operated on Council managed land you must ensure the following:

- Ensure written hire agreements are in place between you and the operator. Agreements are to include: Public Liability Insurance requirements, conditions of use, responsibilities of the parties to the agreement, and methods of communication between the hirer and Council.
- Ensure risk management requirements in relation to 'Jumping Castles' are covered in the conditions of use – hirers must ensure that inflatables are operated in accordance with AS 3533.4.1.
- Provider of the device to supply a copy of their Public Liability Insurance to the amount of \$20million, which will need to be sent to Council prior to the hire.
- Provider to supply the Certificate of Compliance – Design, signed by a registered structural engineer, which will need to be sent to Council prior to the hire.
- Inflatables to be hired from an accredited supplier and to be set up by experienced / trained personnel.
- Prior to the inflatable being used, provide Council with a post-assembly inspection report that has been conducted by the operator. If the inflatable is to be in place for more than one day then daily inspection reports will need to be provided to Council.
- Ensure that the Operator is monitoring wind conditions and that an on-site wind speed monitor is in use.
- Receive from the operator written instructions that include:
  - Environmental conditions that may impact patrons' use of the device.
  - The procedure for monitoring current and forecast wind conditions.
  - The evacuation procedure for the device
  - Maximum height, weight, and age limits that apply
  - Dress code, including foot wear.
  - The minimum number of attendants required to supervise the device and attendant age restrictions that apply.

