



Bouncy Castles – All Variations

Risk Assessment - Bouncy Castles Splash Inflatables Ltd T/As Splash Inflatables, Jump4fun, Event Ninja, Kidaround

Bouncy castles are inflatables with side walls and children or adults can jump on them for fun and exercise. More than 1 user is usually on a bouncy castle at a time and precautions should be made to ensure that any risk or harm is reduced.

There are some bouncy castles which are only suitable for users under a certain height. Please check this before use. It is important to ensure that the designated supervisor is aware of any additional hazards relating to different types of bouncy castles, some additional hazards are as follows:

At least one allocated responsible adult is required to always supervise each inflatable. This can be a company operator or this can also be carried out by the customer. This will be agreed before the hire takes place. Customer is responsible to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities.

HAZARD	RISK OF HARM AND TO WHO/WHAT	Likely hood (1-3) 1 = minor injury 2 = moderate injury 3 = serious injury	Level of harm (1-3) 1 = not likely 2 = likely 3 = very likely	EXISTING CONTROLS TO REDUCE RISK	WHAT FURTHER ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO REDUCE RISK
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Bouncy Castle with slide attached to it	Risk of children colliding on a slide or falling into each other	1	1	Customer to ensure they have booked a bouncy castle/slide appropriate to the children/s age and height	Responsible supervisors to ensure that the users use the slide one at a time
Bouncy Castle with slide attached to it	There may be several exit points to the inflatable	1	1	Ensure there is crash mats at each exit point and any additional entry or exit points are safe and clear from obstructions	Designated supervisor to ensure the entry and exit points remain safe
Bouncy Castle with activity inside (shaped inflatable parts)	These parts of the inflatable could become ripped or damaged	1	1	Visual inspections to take place inside these parts checking all additional seams	Designated supervisors to visually inspect the parts throughout the hire
Bouncy Castles with reduced visibility from outside	users could injure themselves and not be noticed	1	3	Company operator to ensure the inflatable has relevant safety certification	Designated supervisors to head count the users inside the bouncy castle and ensure they have regular visual inspections inside the inflatable
Bouncy Castles with Music systems	Risk of electrocution	1	3	Where possible have the unit pre-charged so that power cables are not required. All electric items to be PAT tested annually by the company. Customer to ensure their electrical sockets are maintained and are no risk.	Remove from the inflatable when outdoors in rain
Bouncy Castles with disco lights	Risk of electrocution or falling from the top of the inflatable	1	3	Ensure that operator tests the equipment and checks for any signs of damage. All electric items to be PAT tested annually by the company. Customer to ensure their electrical sockets are maintained and are no risk.	Remove from the inflatable when outdoors in rain

Please see continuation of risk assessment on the next pages **Risk Assessment for all inflatables.**



What are the hazards?	Who/what might be harmed and how?	Likelihood 1 = not likely 2 = likely 3 = very likely	Level of harm 1 = minor injury 2 = moderate injury 3 = serious injury	Action that will be taken to prevent this hazard	What further action should be taken on the day of hire and by who
Inflatable is very heavy to lift and manoeuvre	Those who are transporting the Inflatable, putting it up, or taking it down could injure their back. Inflatable could fall onto any person nearby.	1	2	<p>The sack trolley will be used wherever possible to move heavy equipment.</p> <p>Advice will be given to staff on correct lifting procedures to prevent injury (using guidance from www.hse.gov.uk or other sources).</p> <p>For rolling up the inflatable, following training instructions, and secure it with the strap provided.</p>	Customer to ensure that the erection site and entry to the erection site is free from the public and ensure there is a safe entry and exit points to buildings free from passers-by.

Unsuitable entry, uneven paths, stairs or tight entry	Company staff could be injured while attempting to move equipment in unsuitable spaces or up or down stairs.	2	2	As much access details as possible established before the hire. Ask customers about potential access issues. Ask for photos from customers where necessary or if unsure.	Company operator to have last say on the safety of the entry space. Company operators not to put themselves at risk of injury and to call manager if unsure what to do.
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Site entry, risk to injury by vehicle or damage to property	Public, users of roads or pathways. Vehicles having to mount pathways or kerbs or school playgrounds	1	3	Ensure that the customer/organiser has pathways cleared before the company arrive. Customer to use signage where possible and ensure there are no pedestrians walking around when the vehicle is in manoeuvre.	Company staff to ensure they thoroughly check for pedestrians and ensure, where possible, the entry is clear from persons or property that could be damaged.
Long electric power cables or spare equipment causing trip hazards	Those who are setting up other stalls at the event could trip on the cable. Users or passers-by could trip and fall causing injury	1	2	Ensure spare equipment is stored away safely away from the public or passers-by.	Where possible, secure the power cable to the ground as soon as it is laid down, and try to keep cables running along the side of buildings instead of cutting across floor space. Ensure that all cables are fitted in the best way possible to avoid trips or falls. Run cables along the side of inflatables where possible. Use bunting or cones to alert passers-by to any potential trip hazards. Customers are to ensure that a safe cable layout is possible.

Danger of damaged Electrical equipment	Anybody who touches the damaged cable could be electrocuted.	1	3	<p>Operators to unroll the electric cable, and check the full length of the cable, and also any plugs or sockets for damage.</p> <p>Where possible ensure that the power cable is plugged into power supply that has a trip switch OR use power breaker. Ensure that there all electrical equipment has an annual PAT test.</p>	All responsible supervisors to report damage to electrical equipment.. customers to supply breakers for electrical equipment in order to protect their electrics.
Heavy duty stakes to be driven in using mallet, and removed at the end of the hire	Operators banging in the stakes could injure their hands. Other persons in the area could be hit with the mallet	1	1	Ensure equipment is regularly inspected for damage and fixed or replaced where necessary.	<p>Company operators are to hold the stakes halfway down when banging them in. Knock the stakes sideways using the mallet before trying to pull them out</p> <p>Make sure the area is clear of other people</p>

The inflatable is wet when it's put away	Operators rolling the Inflatable up could be injured as it will be slippery and heavier if wet.	1	1	If possible, the operator will dry the Inflatable before it is put away	Operator - Extra care to be taken when rolling and manoeuvring, dry surfaces used for pushing and pulling, gloves to be worn.
Uneven Ground /sloping ground	If there is a slope in the garden / venue. The inflatable could tip over and cause	1	2	Talk to the hirer of the added risk and re-enforce that no users are allowed to jump against the side walls of the inflatable and always re-enforce	The operators setting up the inflatable must decide based on their visual inspection to the severity of the slope and if the ground is suitable. Customer

	injury or property damage.			supervision. Only set up inflatables on minor slopes.	responsible for providing a safe and even surface for the erection of inflatable.
Unsuitable or soggy ground.	If there is unsuitable ground where the means of anchorage is unsuitable, the anchor may not work and the inflatable might blow away or move causing injury or property damage.	1	3	The ground must be inspected and checked to ensure it can be safely anchored. If the pegs or anchors are insecure, the operator must not complete the hire and report to management.	If the ground is unsuitable, the operator should report to management and seek another location which is suitable, otherwise the company reserve the right to withdraw. Customer is responsible for providing a safe and suitable ground for the erection of equipment.

Wet Weather	Users may be harmed by slipping on the inflatables. The ground may become soggy and loosen the pegs.	1	3	The customer must be made aware of the risks by the operator setting the equipment up. Rain covers used when possible. The customer must be advised that if the rain exceeds a shower, the customer must turn the equipment off and dried again before use. The equipment is not to be erected in the event of a weather warning for rain.	Ongoing communication with the designated supervisor.
Inflatable becomes wet by spillage	Users might slip and injure themselves	1	1	Food and drink will not be allowed on or near the Inflatable	Designated supervisor to ensure the rules are followed. Any spillages must be cleaned right away.

Using a petrol generator (the Inflatable is supplied with an electric cable, but it can be used with a petrol generator)	<p>If other appliances are run from the petrol generator there could be a reduction in power to the Inflatable which could cause it to deflate</p> <p>The generator could catch fire, injuring those near it. Loss of power could cause entrapment</p>	1	3	<p>No other appliances will be plugged into the generator</p> <p>An appropriate fire extinguisher will be kept near the petrol generator. Ensure that you know how many children on the unit at any one time to avoid entrapment on deflation as you can head count that all users are off the inflatable</p>	Ensure that no spillages are made when filling the generator with fuel. No smoking near the generator. Only company staff are permitted to operate the generators.
Heat coming from generator	Persons touching the generator could burn themselves when it is hot	1	2	Ensure company operator has gloves at hand to wear while handling the generator.	Ensure there is a warning sign or barrier in place to avoid any persons accidentally touching the generator. Strictly only company staff to touch the generators.
Windy Weather	Users may be harmed by a moving inflatable. Users may become trapped inside a moving inflatable and then thrown from a height.	1	3	Ensure that equipment is safety tested. The equipment is not to be erected in the event of a weather warning or forecast weather warning. Operator must use anemometer to check for wind speeds the time of erection.	The designated supervisor must be advised that if the wind exceeds a 24mph, the equipment must be turned off and not used again until the wind subsides. An anemometer must be left with the designated supervisor in order for them to measure wind speeds.
Overhead Cables	The inflatables or users may collide with cables and cause them to	1	3	Operator to ensure the Inflatables are not to be set up within 3ft distance of overhead cables.	

	break and injure or electrocute users				
Vehicle hazards	Injury/crushing caused by an accidental vehicle collision	1	3	Ensure that all drivers are able to safely drive the size and specification of vehicle given to them to do their work. Ensure that the customers give us enough access information prior to the hire so that the company is aware of any potential hazards ahead of the hire.	Company drivers/operators to communicate to ensure that all drivers feel safe and comfortable to drive.
Fan/Blower could catch fire	Fan could malfunction and catch fire.	1	4	Company to ensure blowers are PAT tested and tested for wear and tear regularly. Check cables for damage and notice any unusual smells coming from the blower. Fans only to be repaired by competent persons.	Supervision at all time, if there is a smell or smoke coming from the blower, all users should be removed from the equipment and the power should be switched off at source. Customers are advised to have a fire extinguisher available (for electrical fires) Fire brigade should be called if there is a fire.

Use of the Inflatable

At least one allocated responsible adult is required to supervise the inflatable at all times. This can be a **company operator or this can also be carried out by the **customer**. This will be agreed before the hire takes place. **Customer** is responsible to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities.**

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Likelihood 3 = not likely 4 = likely 5 = very likely	Level of harm 3 = minor injury 4 = moderate injury 5 = serious injury	Action that will be taken to prevent this hazard	What further action should be taken on the day of hire and by who
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Users jumping over the inflatable	<p>Adults and taller users could jump over the sides of the inflatable. Adults and older users throwing themselves heavily against the walls, making the inflatable move or tear.</p> <p>The seams of the inflatable could split causing it to deflate very quickly or injure all of those who are on it</p>	1	2	<p>Ensure that the users' numbers and height restrictions are accessible on the company website. Information will also be held on the individual PIPA Certification. Ensure that these restrictions are adhered to by the supervisor, whether this is the company or the customer.</p>	Constant supervision from the responsible supervisor. Supervisor to follow supervising guidance.
Larger users colliding with smaller users	Smaller users could be injured by larger users	1	2	<p>Users will be grouped by similar age and size, and also limited to a particular number of users at any one time based on user height – this user height restriction information will be on the PIPA Certificate.</p>	Constant supervision from the responsible supervisor. Supervisor to follow supervising guidance.

Users jumping off or falling off the front of the Inflatable	Users could be injured by falling forwards or jumping off the inflatable unit or front step.	1	3	Crash mats will be put down in front of the inflatable. At least one adult supervisor should be at the front of the inflatable at all times, and will ask users to move back if they come too close to the front step. Terms and conditions and guidance to be given to customer prior to hire.	Constant supervision from the responsible supervisor . Supervisor to follow supervising guidance.
Sharp objects that could puncture the inflatable or injure users	users on the inflatable could be injured by sharp objects or if the inflatable was punctured and deflated	1	3	The inflatable will be checked thoroughly before it is used for any loose object or rips or tears on the equipment Users will be asked to remove their shoes and any other sharp objects before they go on the inflatable	Constant supervision from the responsible supervisor . Supervisor to follow supervising guidance.
Anchor points becoming untethered	The inflatable could move or tip, causing injury to the users on it, or anyone standing near it	1	1	The company operator will not erect the inflatable if the wind exceeds 24mph The inflatable will be tethered securely to the anchor points or bolted to the ground using thunder bolts.	Company operators to ensure visual inspections are done on anchor points throughout the duration of the event.
Inflatable blower on ground near the Inflatable	People could trip over the blower and injure themselves, or cut off the power and cause the Inflatable to deflate	1	2	Those setting up the Inflatable will site the blower in a location away from walkways and will advise the customer of the risks stating users must be kept away from the blower.	Responsible supervisor to ensure children do not play near the equipment at the rear or side of the inflatable

Alcohol being consumed at the venue.	Users may be harmed by under supervised equipment. Adults may go onto children's inflatables and collide with other users or cause a tear in the fabric.	1	3	Talk to the hirer about the risks of alcohol being consumed and the importance of supervising the inflatable at all times and adults are not allowed on children's inflatables.	The responsible supervisor , should be at the inflatable at all times and must be of sound mind and not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
Fences / Walls /objects close to the Inflatable	Users may fall over the side walls into a fence, wall or object causing injury or death.	1	3	Inflatables which users can not fall over side walls are highly recommended to reduce the risk of falling. Operator setting up equipment must advise the hirer not to allow anyone to travel down the sides or around the back of inflatables in between the inflatable and the fence/wall/object and to use a barrier. Any removable objects must be removed, if the above is unable to be actioned, operator must not to set up the hire for use. Inform the hirer of the added risk and re-enforce that no users are allowed to jump against the side walls of the inflatable and re-enforce safety rules at all times.	The responsible supervisor , should be at the inflatable at all times and ensure rules are followed.

Choking Hazard	Users could choke on food while on the inflatable and this could cause injury or death	1	3	Users could choke on any objects in their mouth and should not bring food, drink, lollipops or put any other items into their mouth while on inflatables. Supervisors and operators to enforce compliance to the safety rules	Designated supervisors and operators to enforce compliance to the safety rules
Aggressive or inappropriate customers	Risk of harm from angry or aggressive users or customers . Abusive verbal or physical behaviour	1	2	Loan working risk assessments carried out for staff members.	Regular communication with management team. Operators to remove themselves from the situation where possible and call the police if necessary.
Frightened users	Risk of children becoming frightened, freezing and can't move causing hazard to other users .	1	1	Ensure the equipment is monitored by a responsible adult at all times	Responsible supervisor to ensure that the equipment is used by the correct age/height group.
Existing health conditions	Danger of participant hurting themselves or triggering an existing health condition to worsen	1	2	No persons with back, neck conditions. No pregnant users permitted on the equipment. Disclaimers to be signed by the host and/or the participants .	At events, it is the customer's responsibility to ensure that all users are fit and healthy to use the inflatable as per their terms and conditions

Operators or supervisors touching users, causing distress to users or care-givers	User may not want to be touched, risk to operators or supervisors of being accused of inappropriate touching	1	3	Ensure operators are trained to only touch a user if necessary and there is a risk of harm or the participant is in difficulty. Operators to try and support the user by the hand, elbows or arms and avoid any unnecessary touching of any other part of the body if possible	Customers to ensure that users are supported by themselves and customers must be available to intervene where possible to avoid company operators from having to physically handle users. Company to create a touching policy for all operators and to be made available to customers via our website.
Entering the internal parts of the inflatable via zips on the inflatable	Injury or death to person by suffocation or being crushed	1	4	Operator to ensure all zips are closed after erecting the inflatable. Ensure zips are in tact and closed	Supervisors to ensure that users do not open zips and enter inside the inflatable.

General risks for supervising inflatables

Splash Inflatables is insured for Public Liability risks in the event of damage caused to Hirers, their guests, or their property, whilst using the equipment, if the operation and safety Instructions given to the hirer are always adhered to. This is general guidance, which is relevant to most inflatables, there will be more specific guidance in relation to each item of equipment found on the relevant risk assessment.

1. The equipment has a user height limit and user number limit; please ensure you know this before supervising. It can be found on the PIPA safety certificate and on the inflatable itself (in the form of a sticker on the inflatable)
2. You must always supervise the equipment and never leave equipment unattended. If the equipment is not being used for any part of the hire, please switch the equipment off at the mains. Do not leave on and unattended.
3. Ensure that an area of at least 6 feet (2 metres) around the equipment is always completely safe and clear. 1.2m is HSE minimum guidance, however we would like to allow for as much space as possible.
4. No food, drinks or chewing gum may be allowed on or near the equipment to avoid choking and mess.
5. Ensure users are clothed appropriately. All shoes, spectacles (if possible), jewellery, badges etc. must be removed before using the equipment. Advise that there should be nothing dangerous that could fall out of a child's pocket.
6. No face paints, party poppers or silly string to be used on or near the equipment.
7. No smoking or barbeques near the equipment.
8. Climbing, hanging, summer saults or sitting on walls is DANGEROUS and must not be allowed.
9. Always ensure that the equipment is not overcrowded. It is best to avoid large and small children from using it at the same time. Ensure users don't behave in a manner likely to injure themselves or cause distress to others. If users are unruly, the customer is responsible to ensure the welfare of the users
10. No pets, toys, face paints or sharp instruments on or near the equipment.
11. Do not allow anyone to bounce on the front safety step as a user could easily bounce off the inflatable and get injured. The step is there to assist users in getting on and off.
12. Do not allow anyone to be on the equipment during inflation or deflation as this is DANGEROUS.
13. Do not move or re-site the inflatable after being set up by the company.
14. In the event of heavy rain, the equipment must not be used and should be switched off at the mains. After, any wetness can be dried off with a towel.
15. In the event that the blower stops working:

- please ensure all users get off the inflatable immediately
- Check that the blower tube or deflation tube has not come undone or something is obstructing the blower.

16. If the equipment overheats, or loses power:

- Switch the blower off at the mains then switch it back on again 1 or 2 minutes later and it should restart.
- If it does not restart inform us straight away.

17. No persons who are visibly intoxicated may be permitted to use the equipment.

18. If there is an unusual smell or smoke coming from the blower, switch off at the power source and contact us immediately. Call the emergency services if a fire breaks out.

19. In the event of high winds (over 22mph) remove any children from the inflatable and switch off until winds reduce. Wind can be extremely dangerous and can lift inflatables. Use the Anemometer provided to measure wind speeds.

20. You must continuously monitor the condition of the inflatable, checking for rips or tears, spillages or anchor points becoming loose.

21. Ensure users are not dangerously close to side walls or running near the blower or generators at the rear of the inflatable.

Robert Weir

Last updated: 14/07/2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Weir', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Review Date. This is a working document, and changes and updates can be made at any stage.