



# SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN



## BOUNCE HOUSES AND INFLATABLES BEST PRACTICES

Inflatable amusement attractions include bounce houses, water or laser tag arenas, and 'ninja-style' challenge courses.

The State of New Jersey classifies such structures as Type 4 Air Supported Structures. As such, the ownership, operation, and maintenance of these attractions are excluded from liability coverage. Please refer to the [MEL Coverage Bulletin 23-05 Fireworks Displays and Amusement Park Rides](#) for additional information and contact your Risk Manager for questions on your specific event.

Agencies planning a special event to consider an alternative activity to an inflatable attraction. If an event includes a bounce house or other Type 4 Air Supported Structure, be sure to follow these best practices:

- Work closely with the local Risk Manager and Solicitor on the appropriate qualifications of a vendor, the terms of the contract, completion of the Hold Harmless Agreement, and the levels of insurance needed on the part of the vendor.
- Do not assist the vendor with the unloading or set-up of the attraction.
- Do not permit any employee or volunteer of the agency to supervise or in any way participate in the operation of the attraction.
- Require the vendor to inspect the attraction and tie-downs frequently and document their activity.
- Work with the vendor early in the process to determine a shut-down strategy due to weather conditions. Do not wait until the day of the event to decide when the attraction should be closed. Share regular local weather alerts with the vendor.

Please share this information widely with all departments involved in the planning and coordinating of special events.