

CONTENTS

- Message from the President.....1
- CSA Standards Announces 4th Edition.....2
- Defense Themes in Equipment Warnings Cases.....4
- IPEMA Legislative Report.....5
- Fire Service Seeking Equipment.....7
- In the News.....7
- National Toy Hall of Fame.....8
- IPEMA Writes to CPSC...9
- News from NPCAI.....12
- Frost Research Collection Update.....13
- Surfacing & Equipment Committee Update.....14
- NRPA in Indianapolis.....15
- Contact Us.....16

Message from the President...

Time flies when we are having fun! The last two months have included a flurry of activities for IPEMA and we are pleased to continue to play a major role in spreading the overwhelming evidence on how important play is in our lives. Our Advisory Board members continue to demonstrate such passion towards sharing their “play knowledge.” Several excellent articles were featured in major industry magazines and many more are in progress. Our membership is blessed to have the support of such an outstanding advisory group.

We sponsored coffee breaks at the International Play Association (IPA) conference held at the Strong Museum of Play in Rochester, NY. Nearly two hundred attendees spent three days attending sessions and sharing their ideas about play. Brian Sutton-Smith and Joe Frost were honored and have agreed to supply the Strong Museum with copies of their collected libraries and works on play. While at the conference, we spoke with Mary-Ruth Moore from the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas and she relayed that Joe Frost continues to bring cartons of books to the “Play Library” that we are sponsoring. She said that the University has increased the size of the play library and that it continues to be a major attraction and asset. The University of Incarnate Word is very

grateful for IPEMA’s ongoing support. “Thank you.” *More on page 13.*

If you haven’t “bookmarked” www.voiceofplay.com as an internet resource center for information on play, please visit our website and bookmark it today. It’s awesome! We continue to add content, links and timely information for our members to use in promoting play in their selling scenarios. Additionally, you recently received your complimentary supply of the updated IPEMA Value of Play brochures. You will notice how we have harmonized the message in our IPEMA Value of Play brochure with the Voice of Play website. Please encourage your sales and marketing teams to distribute these brochures at tradeshow and conferences they attend.



We have just completed our May Board and Membership meetings in Norfolk, Virginia. The Board worked very hard on our activities for the remainder of 2007 and began planning for 2008. We did pass a significant bylaws change that will require only one membership meeting per year beginning in 2008. We plan to hold our first “Celebrating Play” membership meeting at the NRPA on September 25th at 6:00pm in Indianapolis, Indiana. We will prepare a one-hour presentation on all of our committee activities and accomplishments combined

Continued on page 2

Material in this e-newsletter may be republished with permission of IPEMA and with proper line credit. Mention of commercial products in this publication is solely for information purposes and endorsement is not intended by IPEMA. Material does not directly reflect the opinions or beliefs of the Board or staff.

Message from the President *continued*

with a brief look at our plans for 2008. Immediately following this presentation, we will have a two-hour networking social event including hors d'oeuvres and beverages for our membership. For those of you that missed last year's event, please mark your calendars now so that you can spend an hour or two that evening with your fellow IPEMA members celebrating play.

Another important work that came out of our Board and Membership meetings was the creation of our letter to the US CPSC. I would personally like to thank Lloyd Reese, our equipment certification chair, for tenaciously pursuing this project and the entire Board for their help in crafting

our message. We have included a copy of our letter in this newsletter for your perusal. Please read it ...and if you agree with the message, promote the idea to interested parties who might write the CPSC with a similar request.

Thank you all for your continued support of IPEMA. Have a great summer, sell lots of equipment and surfacing, and create wonderful environments for children and their parents to develop through play. We hope to see you all in Indianapolis!

Sincerely, Tom Norquist, President

Canadian Standards Association Announces 4th Edition of Children's Playspaces & Equipment Standard

Canadian Standards Association (CSA), a leading developer of standards and codes, announced the release of the fourth edition of the CSA-Z614 Children's Playspaces and Equipment standard. The new edition of the standard has been updated to include an annex intended to provide guidance on how to design playspaces to be more inclusive for children with disabilities. An estimated four percent of children in Canada, or 154,720 children aged five to fourteen have disabilities.(4) Changes to the fall heights for elevated platforms and recognition of emerging play elements such as multi-user to-fro swings are also new. The scope of the standard is directed toward public playspace equipment designed for children 18-months to 12-years and does not apply to family daycares as defined by provincial or territorial childcare regulations.

"The kind of playspace environment that children need and want varies enormously with age, as well as with physical and emotional development," said John Walter, Vice President, Standards Development, Canadian Standards Association. "CSA's Playspaces and Equipment standard is designed to initially encourage the provision and then the use of playspaces that are designed and maintained safely. The intent of the standard is to minimize the likelihood of life-threatening or debilitating injuries caused by head entanglements, strangulations or serious falls - while still engaging children with stimulating, creative and challenging play environments."

According to Health Canada, 18 playground deaths have been reported since 1982. Seventeen of these deaths were due to strangulation when drawstrings, skipping ropes, scarves, or loose clothing became entangled in playground equipment or fences, or when a child wearing a bike helmet got his/her head trapped in an opening in playground equipment. The other death was the result of a head fracture.(1) Additionally, each year an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 children in Canada are treated in hospital emergency departments for playground injuries(2) and, of those, about 1,700 will require admission to hospital.(3)

About the CSA-Z614 Children's Playspaces and Equipment Standard

The first edition of the CAN/CSA-Z614 Children's Playspaces and Equipment standard was published in 1990. CSA standards are living documents, reviewed at least once every five years as part of CSA's process of continual improvement. Standards are revised and refreshed as needed to address changing requirements and emerging technologies. New information and feedback from stakeholders and the general public is closely considered before each update or amendment. As the playspaces standard has evolved, each new edition has focused on updating requirements designed to help reduce life threatening and debilitating injuries.

Updates to the fourth edition of the Playspaces standard include an informative annex intended to help guide those

Continued on page 10

Playground Best Practices

This is a summary of an article written by Monty Christiansen, a member of IPEMA's "Voice of Play" Board of Advisors. This article appeared in the May 2007 Parks and Rec Business magazine. He covers best playground practices and 11 steps to a successful playground. Through expansion and reference to industry organizations, Christiansen thoroughly explains to consumers how to create a safe play environment for children. The article covers the following:

Strive to Purchase Equipment with High "Play Value"

"...As we've discovered, a playground with high play value is usually a safer playground than one with low play value because children use the equipment spontaneously in naturally safer ways than children who must force amusement from non-stimulating facilities..."

Make Sure your Playground Meets Appropriate Safety Requirements

"...The two equipment safety criteria generally accepted as the industry standards of care in the United States- the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission's *Handbook of Public Playground Safety* and the American Society of Testing and Materials' standard ASTM F1487, *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use*- are performance criteria, not design restrictions..."

Have your Equipment Installed by a Qualified Installer

"...The installers should be trained individuals, able to read and understand assembly directions, plans and other graphics; knowledgeable about soils, drainage, concrete, asphalt and other construction materials; skilled and experienced in the use of construction tools, equipment and machinery; and certified in playground installation from either the manufacturer of the specific equipment being installed, or by the International Playground Contractors Association."

Install and Maintain Sufficient Safety Surfacing

"...It is essential that the surfacing material or product used has sufficient depth or thickness to ensure adequate impact attenuation, is installed with correct surface and subsurface drainage, and is well maintained."

Require CPSI Verification of Standards Compliance Prior to First Use

"Part of the construction of a playground should be post-installation safety audit preformed by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) prior to acceptance by the owner. This audit should include all equipment and surfacing..."

Establish and Use an Effective Playground Maintenance Program

"... It's recommended that these inspections be based upon an itemized checklist and take no longer than five minutes unless cleanup or repairs are necessary."

Have a Procedure for Effectively Taking Broken Equipment Out of Service

"...It is important to have a predetermined procedure to remove or take broken equipment out of service. It is not enough to tag the condition with plastic warning tape or cones. These generally just attract children to the area and are easily removed or disregarded..."

Practice Good Health and Sanitation Procedures

"Good playground providers not only protect users from injury, but they also protect them from unhealthy or unsanitary conditions..."

Strongly Encourage Competent Supervision of Users, Based Upon Age & Activity

"Many European countries have certified play workers employed by municipalities and stationed as supervisors in public playgrounds when the facilities are open. The playgrounds are fenced and gates are closed and locked when the play workers are not on duty. In the United States, public playgrounds are typically opened and not supervised..."

Monty Christiansen, B.S.L.A., M.L.A., is a member of IPEMA's "Voice of Play" Board of Advisors. He is also Co-founder of the National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) and Executive Director of the International Playground Safety Institute (IPSI).

To read the entire article, visit http://www.northstarpubs.com/PRB0507_PlaygroundBestPrac.php.

Thank you to Monty and our entire Board of Advisors for all of their contributions to our industry!

Defense Themes in Playground Equipment Warnings Cases

By David N. Lutz, Norma M. Gant and Shane V. Bohnen
Bowman and Brooke LLP¹

This is the first of regular features about product liability law as it affects playground equipment manufacturers. Product liability cases involve claims that the product was defective and unreasonably dangerous, either by design and/or because of failure to provide adequate warnings. This article will identify useful strategies for developing defense themes to claims that criticize your warnings.

The article covers the following:

Open and Obvious - There is no duty to warn of open and obvious dangers, or dangers commonly known in the community.

Reasonably Foreseeable Hazards - Manufacturers must warn of reasonably foreseeable dangers, that is, what someone will likely do rather than what is only possible to do.

Sophisticated Purchaser - The law creates a category of purchasers called sophisticated purchasers, and most schools and governmental entities that buy commercial playground equipment would be considered as this kind of purchaser. Sophisticated purchasers may be in a better position to foresee hazards than manufacturers.

No One Rule Fits All - It isn't practical to provide one set of warnings and instructions that will be appropriate for all customers and users.

Common Sense - It's not practical to give detailed

instructions about proper use for each piece of equipment. Warnings should convey that which someone might not otherwise know or fully appreciate.

Industry Standards and Custom - Warnings should comply with or exceed industry standards and be consistent with industry custom.

No Alternative Warning Would Have Mattered - There must be a direct relationship between an inadequate warning and an injury. If a warning wasn't read or was unlikely to have been heeded, a plaintiff will have more difficulty establishing that an inadequate warning is relevant.

While warnings claims can be nebulous and abstract, these defense themes can focus the claims on common sense issues that may resonate with your jury or judge. The next feature in this space will be defense themes in a design case. To the extent you have experiences in the legal system that would benefit the industry, please share them with us so we may include them in upcoming reports. Product liability litigation is an area where the industry can share and collaborate to the benefit of all and IPEMA is a good conduit.

To read this article in its entirety, visit www.ipema.org and find it under News & Articles.

Footnotes

¹ David Lutz (Minneapolis) and Norma Gant (Detroit) are partners and Shane Bohnen (Minneapolis) is an associate of Bowman and Brooke, a national law firm specializing in the defense of product liability cases.

Calendar of Events

July 10-12, 2007

Raleigh, North Carolina NPSI Course, Raleigh, NC

August 2-4, 2007

Colorado Springs, Colorado NPSI Course, Colorado Springs, CO

August 25-29, 2007

North Carolina and South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association, Charleston, SC

August 26-28, 2007

Orlando, Florida NPSI Course, Orlando, FL

August 27-31, 2007

Arizona Parks and Recreation Association
J.W. Marriott Starr Pass Resort, Tucson, Arizona

August 28-30, 2007

Florida Recreation & Parks Association Annual Conference, Caribe Royale Resort, Orlando, FL

To view the entire Calendar of Events, visit www.ipema.org.

IPEMA Legislative Research/Monitoring Report

Summary

In all, 352 bill entries were reviewed between January and April 2007, with 115 bills being reviewed and found to be not applicable. They were researched by the following subject areas:

- Equipment Manufacturing Requirements
- Playground Safety
- Procurement/State Budget Issues (Appropriations/Changes in Procurement affecting playground equipment manufacturing)
- Liability (Product Liability, Joint & Several etc.)
- Lifestyle (Child Obesity, Recess etc.)

Keep in mind that various legislatures move at differing paces. For the most current information, visit your state legislature website (see links below) and search for the most up-to-date information on that particular bill.

The area of greatest possible importance to IPEMA dealt with product liability issues (34 bills). This area is itself broken down into:

- Period in which a lawsuit may be filed – ten bills
- [California AB 1549](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/) (<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>)
- [Virginia HB 2685](http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?071+ful+HB2685) (<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?071+ful+HB2685>)
- [Oregon HB 2909](http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2900.dir/hb2909.intro.pdf) (<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2900.dir/hb2909.intro.pdf>) and [SB 444](http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0444.intro.pdf) (<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0444.intro.pdf>)
- [Iowa SSB 1146](http://www.legis.state.ia.us/?inpMulti=ssb1146) (<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/?inpMulti=ssb1146>) and [HSB 127](http://www.legis.state.ia.us/?inpMulti=hsb127) (<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/?inpMulti=hsb127>)
- [North Carolina HB 969](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2007++&BillID=hb969) (<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2007++&BillID=hb969>)
- [New Jersey SB 771](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2006/Bills/S1000/771_I1.PDF) (http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2006/Bills/S1000/771_I1.PDF)
- [New York A00347](http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A00347) (<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A00347>)
- Caps on non-economic damage awards – three bills (not Medical Malpractice but including product liability)
- [New York A00347](http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A00347) (<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A00347>) and [AB 4401](http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A04401) (<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A04401>)
- [Oklahoma SB 646](http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/WebBillStatus/main.html) (<http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/WebBillStatus/main.html>)
- Joint and several liability (where all parties are liable versus comparative negligence where the party most responsible for the incident is sued) – five bills
- [Utah HB 45](http://le.utah.gov/~2007/htmdoc/hbillhtm/hb0045s01.htm) (<http://le.utah.gov/~2007/htmdoc/hbillhtm/hb0045s01.htm>)
- [Illinois HB 1894](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1894&GAID=9&GA=95&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=30732&SessionID=51) (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1894&GAID=9&GA=95&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=30732&SessionID=51>), [SB 1596](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1596&GAID=9&GA=95&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=30732&SessionID=51) (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1596&GAID=9&GA=95&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=30732&SessionID=51>)
- [Pennsylvania SB 435](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0435&pn=0483) (<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0435&pn=0483>) and [SB 230](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0230&pn=0267) (<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0230&pn=0267>)
- PA also has a manufacturer liability bill that gives business some protection against product liability lawsuit. [SB 705](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0705&pn=0777) (<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0705&pn=0777>)
- Seller immunity (shifts to manufacturer) – two bills
- [Missouri SB 545](http://www.senate.mo.gov/07info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=23994) (http://www.senate.mo.gov/07info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=23994)

Continued on page 6

IPEMA Research/Monitoring Report *continued*

- Pennsylvania HB 123 (<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=B&billNbr=0123&pn=0150>)
- General tort reform bills having some application – seven bills
- Wisconsin AB 147 (<http://nxt.legis.state.wi.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=WI:Default&d=billhist&jd=top>) and SB 59 (<http://nxt.legis.state.wi.us/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=WI:Default&d=billhist&jd=top>)
- Arkansas SB 905 (<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/>)
- New Jersey SB 771 (contact legislature for copies of bills)
- Massachusetts HB 1702 and HD 2193 (contact legislature for copies of bills)
- Texas HB 3354 (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=80R&Bill=HB3354>)
- Other legal areas: There were three bills regarding amusement ride regulation
- Arizona HB 2200 (<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/48leg/1r/bills/hb2200p.htm>)
- Tennessee HB 130 and SB 378 (<http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>)
- One bill regarding government immunity
- Oklahoma HB 1438 (<http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/WebBillStatus/main.html>)
- Use of expert witness
- Oklahoma SB 805 and HB 1886 (<http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/WebBillStatus/main.html#9>)
- Parks budgets- equipment purchase requirements
- Arkansas HB 1969 (<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/ftproot/bills/2007/public/HB1969.pdf>) and HB 1813 (<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/ftproot/bills/2007/public/HB1813.pdf>)
- Children's safety zone
- Oklahoma HB 2191 (<http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/WebBillStatus/main.html>)
- There were twelve bills dealing with general appropriations within the state budget. Most are general in nature but one was surprisingly specific. It funds the state employee position of playground equipment at city parks disbursement officer.
- Arkansas HB 1813 (<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/ftproot/bills/2007/public/HB1813.pdf>)
- Worth noting is Minnesota HF 2355 (<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=H2355.0.html&session=ls85>). This bill sets criteria of educational funding for school district applications. Two criteria are physical hazards and safety management. Playground hazards include repair and replacement of equipment. Security hazard includes access control system and monitoring equipment.
- Massachusetts SB 1392 (<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/185/st01/st01392.htm>) said that MA will have playground safety standards **AT LEAST AS** rigorous as federal standards. It is not certain from the bill's wording that it affects manufacturers as well as operations issues.
- Smoking on playgrounds is the thrust of New York A07469 (<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A07469>). Of interest here is the legal definition as to what a playground is, possibly tying into future legislation.
- Texas SB 972 (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=80R&Bill=SB972>) deals with use of child safety and child products, right now (not explicitly) exempting play equipment whose use is not confined to children 8 and below.
- Illinois HB 1596 (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1596&GAID=9&GA=95&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=30403&SessionID=51>) reauthorizes the East St. Louis Development Authority whose funding scope extends to purchase of playground equipment as part of redevelopment.
- New York AB 7395 (<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A7395>) authorizes a tax credit for playground equipment purchases.

Fire Service Institute Seeking Used Equipment

The University of Illinois Fire Service Institute (www.fsi.uiuc.edu) is the statutory State Fire Academy for Illinois with the core mission of providing instruction and service to both public and private fire departments and conducting research in the methods of maintaining and improving fire protection and control services consistent with community needs. The focus is to conduct hands-on training and research in realistic emergency response environments and conditions.

UIFSI is currently using sea-land containers to provide fire fighter safety, survival and rescue training, as well as statewide training for weapons of mass destruction. The sea-land containers are 40 foot long by 8 foot wide and 8 foot high.

Today, they use wood and heavy paper tubing on the floor of sea-land container training areas. Fire fighters are required to find their way through the training prop *without sight*. Thus, they must feel their way along using fire hose that is on the tunnel path, removing their air packs and replacing them throughout the training exercises. Obstacles are placed in their way to simulate survival and rescue situations. UIFSI is only able to build single layer tunneling in the containers using our current materials.

They believe that using playground tunnels of various sizes and some slides, running from end to end of the forty foot long container, and having tunnels built on top of one another (a maximum of an 8 foot height in

the container) would allow us to create a unique and effective multi-tiered simulation area in the sea-land containers. Once this training prop is constructed at our Institute on the University of Illinois campus, we plan to duplicate the model at the other regional training locations throughout the State of Illinois (30 other locations).

UIFSI believes that used or irregularly manufactured playground equipment would provide the Institute the appropriate quality, durability and flexibility to create the necessary fire fighter training props and keep costs within budget.

This is a very exciting project, which will enhance fire fighter safety, survival and rescue training throughout the State of Illinois as well as for our students who train with UIFSI from across the United States and around the world.

This equipment could be purchased by University of Illinois Fire Service Institute or donated as they are a 501(c)3 organization. To be a part of this, please contact Brian Brauer, Assistant Director at University of Illinois Fire Service Institute.

Contact Info:

11 Gerty Drive

Champaign, IL 61820

P: 217-333-9027

F: 217-244-6790

E: brbrauer@fsi.uiuc.edu

In the News...

Allowing Reasonable Risks

“Franklin Stone, former Executive Director of Common Good, is quoted in this week’s *New York Times* on the effects that litigation is having on children’s access to free play. *“For fear of lawsuits, we’ve created a bubble-wrapped society... We need to re-evaluate safety guidelines to see if we’ve gone too far. And we need to consider legal protection for those who offer opportunities for play—the schools, churches and community organizations who are now afraid of being sued if a child gets hurt.”*

Source: Common Good News Watch, 5 April 2007

Wood chips ruled unfriendly to disabled kids

“A Contra Costa County school district’s use of wood

chips in play boxes makes it harder for boys and girls in wheelchairs to get to swings and slides, a violation of the disabled children’s rights, a federal judge ruled. The decision by US District Judge Claudia Wilken of Oakland could lead to replacement of wood chips with firmer surfaces in public playgrounds at other schools and parks around the country, said a representative of the group that sued the Mount Diablo Unified School District in central Contra Costa... Attorneys for the school district were unavailable for comment on the ruling. In a recent court filing, district lawyer Gregory Widmer said there was “no evidence that any student with a mobility disability ever complained about the accessibility” of play

Continued on page 11

Initiative to Restore Recreation to America's Youth

The Value of Play and A Common Good

Fear of lawsuits, excessive safety regulations, and society's growing aversion to risk have fundamentally altered the nature of play and recreation in America. Playgrounds have become boring – stripped of seesaws, swings, and jungle gyms – and recess is becoming a thing of the past. Yet we know that play is critical to children's physical, social, and mental health. And the loss of recreational opportunities is particularly troubling in this age of rising childhood obesity rates. Because of this, Common Good is working to protect and restore play and recreational opportunities to American life. They are currently developing legislative solutions and raising awareness of the effects that removing all risk from our children has on their lives.

Learn more about their initiative at
<http://cgood.org/f-vop.html>.



About the National Toy Hall of Fame®

Strong–National Museum of Play®, Rochester, NY

Q: What is the National Toy Hall of Fame®?

A: The National Toy Hall of Fame® was established in 1998 by A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village, a children's museum in Salem, Oregon, to recognize toys that have achieved longevity and national significance in the world of play and imagination. The hall quickly outgrew its original home and in 2002, Strong–National Museum of Play®, which houses the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of toys and dolls (more than 70,000 items), acquired it and moved it to its permanent home in Rochester, New York. The hall serves as an interpretive gateway to Strong–National Museum of Play's® world-renowned collection and provides additional opportunities for both hands-on experiences and intergenerational memory sharing among guests.

Q: Why do toys merit a hall of fame?

A: Toys are among the most important human artifacts. They are learning tools. By guiding play, they foster imagination, creativity, and critical thinking. They socialize us and teach fairness. They reveal what we believed and valued, encouraged and endorsed, dismissed and feared. They remind us of who we were, who we are, and who we hope to become. They help us imagine what's next.

Q: What important roles do toys play in our lives?

A: Toys build physical and mental skills; foster creativity and imagination; encourage critical and strategic thinking; teach fair play and cooperation; connect kids and adults; hold memories and provide windows into the past; reflect the ideas, beliefs, values, and attitudes of their creators and users; reveal historical change; predict the future; educate and entertain.

Q: What is the process for selecting toys for the National Toy Hall of Fame®?

A: The public can nominate toys on site at Strong Museum, via the [Internet](#), or by U.S. mail. An internal museum Advisory Committee comprised of curators, educators, and historians, reviews the submitted nominations and determines which toys meet the criteria for selection. A National Selection Committee then reviews the list of toys that meet the criteria. Each National Selection Committee member votes for his or her top toy picks for induction. The votes are then tallied, with the toys receiving the most votes making the cut for induction into the National Toy Hall of Fame®.

To learn more about the National Toy Hall of Fame, visit <http://www.strongmuseum.org/NTHoF/NTHoF.html>.

IPEMA Writes to the Consumer Product Safety Commission

The IPEMA Board of Directors learned of a draft handbook for playground safety being developed by the CPSC, which contradicts some of the items in the ASTM standards. The Board drafted the following letter and sent it to the CPSC.

“The members of the International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) have worked with the CPSC for nearly two decades towards the common goal of providing safer public playground environments. We now understand that a second draft for revising the current handbook for public playground safety guidelines is in process. As you may be aware, we reviewed the 2006 initial draft of this document and had some concerns about discrepancies that continue to exist between the technical sections of the handbook and the ASTM Public Play Standard for Equipment.

We are specifically concerned that the publication of a non-harmonized public playground equipment guideline will continue to perpetuate consumer confusion. In addition, many organizations already have programs in place that utilize the ASTM standards, like IPEMA with our equipment and surfacing certification programs, the National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) with its training program for playground inspectors, and the National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) with their various training programs. We would respectfully note that ASTM is now fulfilling the role of providing detailed technical standards that are accepted by the industry-at-large, consumers, and numerous governmental agencies. In fact, some of these agencies recognize and refer to ASTM standards within their own guidelines. The United States Access Board currently utilizes and relies upon ASTM playground standards when referring to safety issues within the playground environment. It is important to remember that the ASTM standards have been written by and are continually monitored by a pool of experts in playground safety fields that include educators, consultants, consumer advocates, manufacturers, and government agencies. The ASTM public playground standard has its origins in the Comsis Report and the wonderful document that the CPSC published in 1981 and it has progressed into the internationally respected document it is today through the unending dedication of this group of experts.

ASTM has enjoyed active participation by CPSC representatives in the ASTM process. IPEMA encourages continued participation and contribution from CPSC, the Access Board and other governmental agencies in the ASTM standards development process. For twenty (20) years, ASTM has worked at refining their technical guidelines to become the internationally-recognized safety standard for play. Based upon this fact, we are simply asking that the CPSC handbook be developed into a generalized consumer guide for those items that are not covered under ASTM technical standards for public playgrounds. IPEMA requests that your revised playground handbook not include technical sections, but instead refer your readers with technical concerns about playground equipment and surfacing in the public arena to ASTM standards that are already in existence.

I will give you a call in the next week to discuss this request further. Thank you for your consideration.”

We ask that if you support IPEMA's position, please also send a letter to the CPSC at:
Celestine Kiss, Engineering Psychologist
Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
4330 East West Highway
Room 717B
Bethesda, MD 20814-4408

A copy of the letter is also available to view on the Members Area of the IPEMA website at www.ipema.org.

As of June 13, Tom Norquist, IPEMA President, had spoken to Ms. Kiss. She is considering our request and intends to research how the Access Board uses ASTM standards. In addition, Norquist offered that an IPEMA representative visit CPSC and explain our position even further. At this time, no appointment is scheduled.

Let your client's know your products are IPEMA Certified!

Utilize www.ipema.org by printing certificates of your certified surfacing or equipment so that your customers are aware of your certification.

Questions? Contact IPEMA at
717-238-1744.

Canadian Standards Association *continued*

wishing to design playspaces which are more accessible to, and usable by, children with physical disabilities such as mobility, reaching, and manipulation disabilities. The annex focuses on reducing or removing barriers and increasing opportunities for people of all abilities to grow and learn together through outdoor play.

It is important to note that the annex is intended to be informative and non-mandatory and is only to be applied to new playspaces or renovations or retrofits.

The fourth edition of the standard also includes changes to the fall heights for elevated platforms. Each year thousands of Canadian children are injured in playspaces, mostly from falls. According to Safe Kids Canada, for children under five, head injuries account for one in every seven hospital admissions (14 percent) due to falls from playground equipment.(5) In this 2007 edition, the Technical Committee has introduced changes to the fall heights for elevated platforms that recognize that falls from the decks often occur when children climb up and over protective barriers. The new standard also includes requirements for emerging play elements, specifically a new requirement for swings designed for multiple users, and includes both Imperial and Metric measurements.

The CSA Playspaces Technical Committee is composed of volunteer members representing stakeholders likely to be affected by the standard, including representatives from the Canadian Child Care Federation, Health Canada, Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, Safe Kids Canada, Ville de Montreal, as well as various manufacturers and municipalities from across Canada. The committee was created using a balanced matrix

approach structured to capitalize on the combined strengths and expertise of its members - with no single group dominating.

Compliance with all CSA standards is voluntary unless mandated by government or enforced by regulatory authorities. In regards to the Children's Playspaces and Equipment standard, it is at the discretion of government or regulatory authorities to determine if, and how, they will adopt the standard. The Children's Playspaces and Equipment standard is not retroactive and is intended to be applied only to new playspaces equipment and to additions and replacement parts of existing playspaces and equipment. CSA International does not certify playspaces or have a program to certify playspace inspectors. The CSA-Z614 Children's Playspaces and Equipment standard may be purchased online at www.shopcsa.ca, or by contacting CSA Sales at 1-800-463-6727 or sales@csa.ca.

(1) Health Canada, Product Safety Bureau, personal communication, October 1999; updated January 2005. (2) This estimate is based on an extrapolation of sample emergency department data and assumes that injury patterns for playgrounds are similar across Canada. Data sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), Ontario Trauma Registry Analytic Bulletin: Sports and Recreational Injury Hospitalizations in Ontario, 2002-2003. Toronto: CIHI, 2004; and Health Canada, Child Injury Division, personal communication, October 1999. (3) Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), National Trauma Registry, Minimal Dataset. Hospitalizations data: numbers of injury admissions by age, sex, season and type of injury, FY 1999-2001. Unpublished data. (4) Disability in Canada: A 2001 Profile, a publication of Social Development Canada. (5) Zierler A, Warda L, Pless I. Playground safety in Canada: children's injury exposure and parents' knowledge of prevention. Poster presented at BC Injury Prevention Conference, Sydney, BC, May 2001; and at Canadian Conference on Injury Prevention & Control, Kananaskis, AB, October 2000.

Source: Canada Newswire, CSA release, 14 May 2007

Questions about Certification?

Contact Hope Walker, IPEMA Certification Coordinator, at certification@ipema.org or by calling 717-238-1744.

In the News...*continued*

boxes with wood chip surfaces. He also said rubberized mats are eight times as expensive as wood chips and would cost the district more than \$2.7 million if installed in 32 play boxes. . . Larry Paradis, executive director of Disability Rights Advocates, said wood chips don't meet disabled children's needs for a firm and stable surface, with little or no sloping, to wheel themselves to swings, slides and sandboxes. He said wood chip manufacturers have been boosting their sales and misleading customers by asserting that their product meets the standards of disability laws. However, a playground designer said Friday that federal regulators have found that engineered wood fiber, the product used in schools and parks, complies with accessibility standards if properly compacted and maintained. "Most places can't maintain it to that level, and they're probably better off with rubber," to reduce maintenance costs and the likelihood of lawsuits, said Susan Goltsman, whose Oakland firm, MIG, also designs schools and zoos. She said both products are safe, although wood chips are more yielding and may cushion falls better." Source: The San Francisco Chronicle, 5 May 2007

Miracle Rec and Sof' Solutions Donate to Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

"When Extreme Makeover: Home Edition approached Miracle Recreation Equipment Company with Camp Heartland's story of giving kids affected by HIV and AIDS a place to be kids, we jumped at the opportunity to provide them with our exclusive Mega Tower™ and engineered wood fiber surfacing from Sof' Solutions. Extreme Makeover: Home Edition chose Miracle's Mega Tower™ playsystem, all of which could fit within the limited space available at Camp Heartland. It proved to be an excellent choice. When the makeover was unveiled, kids were rushing to play on the Mega Tower™, climbing again and again to go down their choice of 3 exciting slides and to play with the 12 activities along the way. Camp Heartland's playground reveal on Extreme Makeover: Home Edition was the show's 2-hour season finale on May 20, 2007 at 7/6c." Source: <http://www.miracle-recreation.com/abc/> 20 May 2007

Tag banned at La Crosse elementary school

"You're it! Two words you won't hear on the playground at Harry Spence Elementary School in La Crosse. Students heard via an intercom announcement that tag and other

"chase" games are banned on the playground. Principal Nancy Sikorsky declined comment, saying "This is not news, this is a safety issue, therefore I don't have a comment." She also said that her school and others in the area have rules against playing tag on the playground but haven't always enforced them. She declined to say what prompted the more stringent enforcement of the rule. . . The bans on tag at local schools follow a national trend against the game and some others, such as dodgeball, that critics claim put children at too much risk for injury or social isolation. Tag was named to the "Physical Education Hall of Shame" in a 1994 research paper by Neil F. Williams of the Department of Health and Physical Education at Eastern Connecticut State University. "Elimination games like Tag or Simon Says are essentially self-defeating, because the students who are least skilled and fit are usually the first to be caught, banished, punished and embarrassed, and then given almost no opportunity to improve," the study says."

Source: La Crosse Tribune, Dan Simmons, 28 April 2007

Road to emotional recovery smoother with Play Power

"The program, called Play Power, is an outreach of Louisiana Children's Museum as a way to help Katrina's youngest victims heal through play, said program manager Theresa Ferrer. . . The program, originally called Play Helps, was devised by the Children's Museum of Manhattan, where officials saw a need to help children of disasters express emotions through play after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Ferrer said. The program, initially started in December in three outdoor tents at Andrew Jackson Elementary School, had about three months of financing from the Toy Industry Foundation of New York. . . The Louisiana Children's Museum, which was working with the original program and its volunteers, has solicited additional grants to continue it at Andrew Jackson through the end of the school year and through the summer program."

Source: The Times-Picayune, Karen Turni Bazile, 30 April 2007

**See an important piece of news?
Pass it along!**

Send news clips to communications@ipema.org

News from NPCAI...

The International Playground Contractors Association (NPCAI) is a non-profit trade association that has been providing numerous services to playground builders, owners and the playground industry for ten years; profiled here are some of those services.

LET US BUILD A MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE!

Don't miss this awesome opportunity to invite a colleague or friend to the International Playground Contractors Association (NPCAI). Join the "Let Us Build Membership Challenge" today and invite a member to join the benefits of the International Playground Contractors Association.



Recruit new members by August 1, 2007 and be eligible to win!

Recruit at least 10 new members and your company will be granted a free sponsorship opportunity for the Silver Social Sponsor at no cost with the benefits of recognition on NPCAI Publications, The Playbook, The Playground Connection, etc. Display space available to promote literature on the day of the event with primary choice of location. Recognition as a SILVER Sponsor in Social Event Program, certificate of SILVER Sponsor Participation, and one quarter page ad in social event program (Valued at \$1,000).

Recruit at least 20 new members and your company will have the granted a free sponsorship opportunity for the Silver Social Sponsor at no cost with the benefits of recognition on NPCAI Publications, The Playbook, The Playground Connection, etc. Display space available to promote literature on the day of the event with primary choice of location. Recognition as a SILVER Sponsor in Social Event Program, certificate of SILVER Sponsor Participation, one quarter page ad in social event program, and win a complimentary 3 night stay at the Columbia Club located at 121 Monument Circle in Indianapolis, Indiana for the 2007 NRPA Congress & Exposition, September. 25-29.2007 (Valued over \$1,400).

Visit www.playground-contractors.org to learn more about our awesome benefits or contact NPCAI at membership@playground-contractors.org or call 1-888-908-9519.

THE NPCAI INSURANCE PROGRAM

The NPCAI has an in-house insurance program that only NPCAI members can access. The program is operated by City Securities, an insurance firm out of Indianapolis, Indiana. The program offers a wide variety of products from liability and workers compensation insurance, to errors and omissions. Manufacturers, sales representatives, member associates and playground contractors are benefiting from combined records of experience which allows underwriters to get a clear picture of the work performed and the risk factors involved.

To date, the NPCAI Member Insurance Program has written nearly 1 million dollars in premiums and saved members thousands of dollars in premiums. An application can be downloaded at the www.playground-contractors.org, or by calling Steve Carraway at 317-634-4400.

Children's Play & Play Environment Research Collection

Update on the Joe L. Frost Collection at the University of the Incarnate Word

Beginning in the summer of 2004, IPEMA contributed \$25,000 over a five-year period to the University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, TX, for housing the Joe L. Frost Children's Play & Play Environments Research Collection. The collection includes books, journals, reports and numerous other materials, many of them unique, dealing with this field.



Dr. Mary Ruth Moore, Associate Professor of the Dreeben School of Education, has been able to provide IPEMA with an update on the collection each year. Through the years, she has been more than encouraged by the success of the collection. The money contributed by IPEMA has allowed the University to hire a student to stay in the library for approximately 8 hours a week so that it is open to the public. The Joe L. Frost Children's Play & Play Environments Research Collection is available at any other time by appointment.

Though Dr. Moore knew that the collection would benefit childhood-related majors, she has been amazed by the interest in cross-disciplines. Students from kinesiology and english have also been able to use the resources. So far, one graduate student has completed their dissertation by using the research materials available.

A log is kept so that those who visit the collection may keep a record. The university has been able to track that approximately five classes visit each semester, as well as many research projects are conducted using the materials. They have also found that students who do not attend the University of the Incarnate Word visit.

In 2006, several built-in bookcases to house even more materials, as well as a case for rare books, was installed. In 2007, Dr. Moore was encouraged at the IPA/TASP conference at the Strong National Museum of Play because the Frost Collection was mentioned several times from the conference stage. In addition, Dr. Frost continues to provide resources for the library. Currently there are plans to improve the web presence of the Frost Collection. IPEMA is promoted on the website (<http://www.uiw.edu/frost/index.htm>) as well as on various marketing materials.

IPEMA's continued contributions have made this library what it is today!

Mark Your Calendars!



IPEMA Membership Meeting
& Social
September 25, 2007, 6-9 pm
NRPA, Indianapolis, Indiana



More Details to Come!

July Is Recreation and Parks Month

Since 1985, the National Recreation and Park Association has designated the month of July as Recreation and Parks Month. Recreation facilities and parks across the country annually use July to celebrate the kick-off of summer programming as well as a time to pull their communities together to volunteer, get involved in great outdoor physical activities and advocate for parks and recreation.

This year, NRPA has developed several resources for local agencies and park and recreation supporters to utilize in proclaiming Recreation and Parks Month in their own communities. An official proclamation, letter and local release are currently available, and can be personalized by each community to encourage local leaders to proclaim July is Recreation and Parks month in their own town—in their own way.

As NRPA observes Recreation and Parks Month, they recognize the vital contributions of employees and

volunteers throughout the country and abroad who assist public parks and recreation facilities. These dedicated supporters keep public parks clean and safe for visitors, organize and coach youth sports teams, provide educational programming on health, nutrition, first aid and gardening, advocate for more open space and better trails, and fundraise for local improvements. They ensure that public parks and recreation facilities are safe and accessible places for all citizens to enjoy.

As part of a summer full of nationwide activities and community celebrations, help NRPA celebrate this month that highlights the hard work and dedication of public park and recreation supporters across the country, and the joy that comes from our places and spaces.

For more information on Recreation and Parks Month, log on to www.nrpa.org.

IPEMA Surfacing Committee Update

The surfacing committee most recently met in May at ASTM meeting in Norfolk, Virginia. An issue discussed was certifying accessibility. The rotational penetrometer is currently going through the ASTM process, however, there are still issues to be resolved before the equipment will be approved.

Richard Hawley, Robertson Industries, also held a meeting in May to begin writing a standard for poured-in-place

surfacing. This will fall under the ASTM F08.63 committee. Currently, IPEMA certifies surfacing to 2075 and 1292. The committee is looking at possibly adding accessibility standards and adding poured-in-place requirements to the standards.

For more information, contact Ted Illjes, Zeager Bros., Committee Chair, at (717) 944-7481.

IPEMA Equipment Committee Update

The equipment certification committee met in May and is in the process of approving the '07 ASTM and CSA standards at the same time. CSA was published in mid-April and ASTM was published at the beginning of May. A small group is meeting and the goal is to have all the information sent out and updated by September 1, 2007. Participating members have until September 1, 2007 to validate to the '07 standards and the committee feels this

goal is possible to complete. The website will be updated on September 1 to show that products are certified to '07 standards. The committee is developing a guide for compliance to the IPEMA membership.

For more information, contact Lloyd Reese, Playpower LT Farmington, Committee Chair, at (800) 325-8828.

NRPA to visit Indianapolis in September

September 25-29, 2007

Registration and Housing Open for NRPA

Join thousands of park and recreation professionals, citizen advocates, industry suppliers and others in Indianapolis for the 2007 NRPA Congress & Exposition, Sept. 25-29. An exciting opening General Session with keynote Billie Jean King, one of the greatest tennis players and female athletes in history, will start the week off. Throughout the week, hundreds of learning opportunities including over 200 IACET-authorized CEU education sessions and nearly 20 Off-Site Institutes with a focus on recreation facilities, urban-based operations, natural resources, and cultural and historic sites. It is expected that more than 500 exhibitors and vendors will be showcasing the latest park and recreation products and services. In addition, networking and entertainment opportunities with thousands of attendees from around the country and the world.



**National Recreation
and Park Association**

The City of Indianapolis

Known as the Circle City, Indianapolis is an up-and-coming city filled with great shopping, cultural, historic, and arts districts. It is regionally and nationally known for impressive sports and recreation opportunities.

Indianapolis has an award-winning greenways system. Indy Parks Greenways operates and maintains the city's 39 miles of greenway trails, 26 miles of blueways, a variety of conservation corridors. The Greenways system encompasses streams, old railroad and utility corridors, and historic locations, like the 1836 Canal Tow Path, and will eventually contain more than 150 miles of interconnected trails throughout Marion County.

The White River (which bisects the city) serves as the center for White River State Park, which includes the NCAA hall of champions, Zoo, gardens, victory field, greenway, and museums. The Indiana State Museum in White River State Park is the state's gathering place to explore the state's past, present and future through exhibits inviting exploration and discovery of art, science, history and culture. This architecturally significant complex includes permanent and changing exhibits, two restaurants, a two-story gift shop and Indianapolis' only IMAX Theater. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum is located 5 miles outside of downtown and is one of the world's largest, most varied collections of racing, classic and antique cars is housed here featuring more than 30 Indianapolis 500 winning cars. Bus tours around track are available when track is not in use for racing or testing.

Visit www.indy.org to learn all about Indianapolis!

NRPA Schedule at a Glance

Tuesday, Sept. 25

7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Registration
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Exhibitor Move-In
12:45-5 p.m. Education Sessions
6:00-7:30 p.m. Welcome Party at the RCA Dome

Wednesday, Sept. 26

7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Registration
8:00-10:30 a.m. Opening General Session/Keynote by Billie Jean King
10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open "Start Your Engines"
2:00-5:00 p.m. Education Sessions

Thursday, Sept. 27

7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration
8:30-11:30 a.m. Power Sessions and Education Sessions
11 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open "Park it Pit Stop"
2:00-5:00 p.m. Education Sessions

Friday, Sept. 28

7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration
8:30-11:30 a.m. Power Sessions and Education Sessions
10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open "The Finish Line"
2:00-5:00 p.m. Education Sessions
5:30-7:30 p.m. Closing Party at White State Park

IPEMA 2007 Board of Directors

President

Tom Norquist
GameTime
PO Box 680121
Fort Payne, AL 35968
P: (256) 845-5610
F: (256) 845-3156
tomn@gametime.com

President-Elect

Tim Ahern
BCI Burke Co., LLC
660 Van Dyne Road
Fond Du Lac, WI 54936
P: (920) 921-9220
F: (920) 921-9566
timahern@bciburke.com

Secretary

Bill Clapp
Playland International, Inc.
150 Adamson Industrial Boulevard
Carrollton, GA 30117
P: (770) 834-6120
F: (770) 834-6495
billc@playland-inc.com

Treasurer

Curtis Cleveland
Playworld Systems
1000 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837
P: (570) 522-9800
F: (570) 522-3030
curtisc@playworldsystems.com

Immediate Past President

Steve King
Landscape Structures Inc.
601 Seventh Street South
Box 198
Delano, MN 55328-0198
P: (763) 972-3391
F: (763) 972-3185
steve_king@4funlsi.com

Director- Lower Dues

Keith Sacks
Rubberecycle LLC
1985 Rutgers University Boulevard
Lakewood, NJ 08701
P: (732) 363-0600
F: (732) 370-4247
keiths@rubberecycle.com

Director- Member-at-Large & Equipment Certification

Committee Seat
Lloyd Reese
Playpower LT Farmington, Inc
formerly Little Tikes Commercial
One Iron Mountain Drive
Farmington, MO 63640
P: (573) 760-7363
F: (573) 760-7452
lreese@ltpcs.com

Director- Surfacing Representative

Richard Hawley
TotTurf by Robertson Industries, Inc.
4145 W. Mercury Way
Chandler, AZ 85226
P: (602) 340-8873
F: (602) 340-0402
rhawley@totturf.com

Director- Surfacing Certification Committee Seat

Ted Illjes
Zeager Bros. Inc.
4000 East Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
P: (717) 944-7481
F: (717) 944-7681
tedi@zeager.com

IPEMA Legal Counsel

Milt Chappell
10321 Royal Road
Silver Spring, MD 20903
P:(703) 770-3329
F: (301) 408-2135
mlc@nrtw.org

Contact Headquarters

International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association
4305 North Sixth Street, Suite A, Harrisburg, PA 17110
www.ipema.org

Phone: 717-238-1744

Fax: 717-238-9985

www.voiceofplay.com

Executive Director: Denise R. Calabrese, info@ipema.org
Certification Coordinator: Hope Walker, certification@ipema.org
Finanacial & Database Manager: Amy E.H. Bell, admin@ipema.org
Communications Manager: Bethany Dennis, communications@ipema.org
Administrative Assistant: Tonya Weikel, customerservice@ipema.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am-5:00 pm EST