



## Incidents of Death and Injury on Public Playgrounds

On July 7, 1998, firefighters rescued a terrified six year old boy in **Boston, Massachusetts** from a jungle gym after he got his head stuck between two wooden supports. The firefighters used inflatable bags to spread the wooden supports between which the boy had wedged his head. The boy walked away from the playground unscathed. (Boston Herald, July 8, 1998, p. 5)

On April 26, 1999, a four year old girl in **Fayetteville, North Carolina** died as she was playing in a public playground. She was struck by a piece of equipment and died of a blunt force trauma to her head. (Playground Equipment, 1998-1999, Death Certificate File, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Directorate for Epidemiology, National Injury Information Clearinghouse, # 9937019758)

In 1995, an eight year old girl in **Newark, New Jersey** died in a public housing project playground. She died after she fell seven feet from monkey bars hitting her head on an adjoining concrete wall. Rubber safety surfacing was in place, but sadly, she hit her head on a concrete wall too close to the playground equipment. (Playground Equipment Deaths, 1998-1999, Reported Incidents, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Injury Information Clearinghouse, # X9863818B)

On April 26, 1999 a four year old girl in **Raleigh, North Carolina** died as she was playing on a swing. She died of a head injury received as a result of a fall from the swing. (Playground Equipment Deaths, 1998-1999, Reported Incidents, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Injury Information Clearinghouse, # X9993096A)

On June 26, 1999, a five year old girl in **Baltimore, MD** died as she was playing in her elementary school's playground. She was hanging from the monkey bars at the playground when she fell and landed on a metal step at the end of the monkey bars. The little girl died two days later of internal abdominal injuries. (Playground Equipment Deaths, 1998-1999,

Accident Investigations U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission,  
National Injury Information Clearinghouse, # 991221HCC0216)

On October 6, 1998 a two year old girl in **Cleveland, Ohio** died as she was playing on a slide. The drawstring of her clothing caught around her neck while she was sliding down the sliding board. She died of suffocation and strangulation. (Playground Equipment Deaths, 1998-1999, Reported Incidents, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Injury Information Clearinghouse, # X98B0725A)

On September 1, 1998, an eighteen month old boy in **Boston, Massachusetts** died in a public playground after he suffered a severe head injury and seizure. He was crawling through circular tubes connected to two slides. (Playground Equipment Deaths, 1998-1999, Reported Incidents, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Injury Information Clearinghouse, # N9890094A)

In June of 1997 in **Derby, Kansas**, a 10 year old boy died while playing in a park playground. He died after falling less than seven feet onto a sand surface from a set of parallel bars. (Playground Equipment Deaths, 1998-1999, Reported Incidents, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Injury Information Clearinghouse, # G9850119B )

On October 24, 1999, a three year old boy died in **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** as he was playing in a playground. He died from suffocation or strangulation when his scarf got caught while playing on playground equipment. (Playground Equipment Deaths, 1998-1999, Reported Incidents, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Injury Information Clearinghouse, # X98C1283A)