

PlaySafe and Live Well!

Welcome to PlaySafe, LLC's informational column. Every month we will work hard to provide you with up-to-date information on topics related to parks, recreation, health, wellness, and physical education. Our hope is that by providing you with detailed information, you will go forward and positively change the world. If you have questions or comments, or if you would like to share your thoughts, please contact us through this web site. Thanks. Now PlaySafe and live well!

Some Helpful Hints for Taking the CPSI Exam

By Butch DeFillippo

I have recently been lucky enough to be chosen to work with the National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) Certified Playground Safety Inspector Exam Review Committee and NRPA staff member Caroline Smith. I found these people to be caring, hard working people dedicated to our field and children's safety. This group agonizes over trying to create and administer a fair test that will insure that the individuals that pass it are capable of correctly analyzing a playground and can help make positive changes. But, as I travel around the country I often hear comments such as: The test is too hard; the test is full of trick questions; why aren't my opinions as valid as the test writers? With these types of statements in mind I hope this column can provide the frustrated test takers with some actions that will result in their passing the exam.

1st Hint: Study.

Do not show up to the class or take the test without taking the time to study. There is far too much information for you to learn during the class. To pass the exam you must have a deep understanding of the Public Playground Safety Handbook written by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (2010, November), which is available for download at no cost at <http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/116134/325.pdf>. You can do that right now!

You must know all the information provided by the ASTM F1487, Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use which can be purchased at <http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm>. Also available any time.

Read the Content Outline and study the areas that provide the most points. The Content Outline is available at:

http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Professional_Development/Certification/CPSI/2012%20CPSI%20Exam%20Content%20Outline.pdf. Available all the time.

Read and understand the manual: Playground Safety is No Accident 5th Edition. There will be test questions from this book. It is available from the NRPA at:

<http://www.nrpa.org/store/detail.aspx?id=PLAYSAFEMAN02>

Other playground information is available at:

<http://www.nrpa.org/Professional-Development/Certification/CPSI/Resources-and-Links/>

2nd Hint: Learn as much as you can about a playground.

Go to other workshops on playground safety and read other books on playground safety. The more you know, the better. The NRPA, state recreation organizations, childcare associations, school groups, risk management agencies, the National Program for Playground Safety and private companies all offer opportunities to help you understand playgrounds better.

3rd Hint: Be prepared the day of the test.

Don't cram – for the most part it does not work. Get sleep. Eat a good breakfast. Dress comfortably (this is not the time to dress to impress). If you need to use the restroom, do so. There is plenty of time to finish the exam; you do not need to be uncomfortable. Do not wear a hat – they will make you take it off. Take your time and read each question.

I promise you that no one is trying to trick you in any way. I also promise you that without a dedicated effort on your part you are not likely to pass the exam. I hope that these hints can help you have a better understanding of the exam and assist you in passing.

To register for the CPSI certification contact the National Recreation and Park Association (<http://www.nrpa.org/CPSI/>)

In 1997, a group of Parks and Recreation, Physical Education and private recreation professionals formed PlaySafe, LLC to provide resources that were not readily available to the public and private sectors. Today, PlaySafe, LLC is the largest, most respected and highly skilled playground, surfacing and ball field safety auditing firm in the United States. Our staff members are experts in playground safety, athletic field testing, bleacher inspections, master plans, feasibility studies and program development. Our training and seminars are informative and will make your organization the best it can be. PlaySafe, LLC staff includes Parks and Recreation, Physical Education and Community Health professionals with over 200 years of combined experience.

PlaySafe, LLC is the Premiere Recreational Consulting Company. PlaySafe, LLC assists municipalities, schools, childcare providers, communities and other recreation-providing entities by offering the following services throughout the United States: Playground Equipment and Surfacing Audits, Recreational Topic Seminars and Training, Recreation and Physical Education Plans, GMax Turf Testing, Bleacher Inspections, and Expert Witness Services.