



A Message from the Safety Director

July 25, 2019

As we enter the height of the summer - autumn special event season, the Safety Director wishes to remind members of best practices for inflatable amusement attractions such as 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 for more information and contact your Risk Manager for questions on your specific event.

The Safety Director encourages 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 supervise or in any way participate in the operation of the attraction.
- Require the vendor to frequently inspect the attraction and tie-downs and document their activity
- Establish with the vendor in advance the pre-determined shut-down process for weather conditions, and share with the vendor regular local weather alerts.

The information is also available on the MEL website (www.njmel.org), under INSURANCE & CLAIMS dropdown menu, by selecting COVERAGE and BULLETINS. Please share this information widely with all departments that are involved in the planning and coordination of special events.