

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

TITLE: Playground Safety Specialist GRADE: 16 DATE: 10/25/2023
SERIES: Building and Grounds CODE: 2530 EEO: Technician FLSA: Non-Exempt
Maintenance

Class Definition:

Under general supervision, performs comprehensive inspections of playground areas and equipment for safety and maintenance problems located in all types of parks for a region. Completes projects involving the maintenance, repair and limited installation of play equipment; ability to use a variety of hand and power tools and perform routine welding, masonry, carpentry and mechanical work. Leads teams in performing carpentry, masonry, welding, design alterations and replacement of parts to meet safety standards in accordance with U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines. Work contributes to safe operation of playground equipment and areas. As an individual contributor, work consists of varied activities within a field that involves investigating, researching, testing, performing extensive calculations or standard mathematics, or other means to ensure high accuracy; information must be developed, classified and analyzed to determine significance. Some information may be highly sensitive or confidential. Applies knowledge of playground equipment maintenance practices, tools, supplies and equipment, playground equipment inspection techniques, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines, standards and symbols, safety, general trades (masonry, carpentry, welding), and technical concepts, methods, and use of technical instruments to plan and carry out technical projects. Performs various types of research and analyses to solve regularly occurring problems in the work. Interacts with people inside and outside the organization, including the public, to exchange information, coordinate, instruct, guide and advise. Performs other duties, as assigned.

Work is assigned in terms of specifics, including known problems, and is to be performed in strict adherence to guidelines (which include instructions of the supervisor or a higher-grade employee); the incumbent plans the detailed work steps within these parameters. Employee independently resolves routine problems by selecting and applying the appropriate guides and instructions; seeks assistance from the supervisor for unfamiliar or non-routine problems or issues. Work is evaluated in terms of compliance with guidelines, quality, quantity, timeliness, teamwork, customer service and other related factors.

Examples of Important Duties:

1. Plans and conducts routine preventive maintenance programs for playground equipment. Performs safety inspections to discover structural problems and other defects, determines needed repairs and implements corrective action. Performs minor repairs and replacements (e.g., swings, S-hooks, chains). Disables or removes defective equipment as required. Provides recommendations on closing and removing major equipment.
2. Prepares records of inspections and completed repairs. Estimates materials and supplies needed and selects and purchases all repair and replacement parts. Submits annual budget requests. Receives shipments of supplies and keeps stock inventory.

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3. Provides technical advice to park designers and inspectors on the selection, installation and maintenance of play structures and on required compliance with U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines and manufacturer's specifications. Provides regional representation and input at pre-and post-construction meetings and during installation. Provides significant input into the scheduling of play equipment renovation in the Capital Improvement Program.
4. Provides leadership and coordination for staff involved in the repair, maintenance, installation and design alteration of play equipment. Ensures that work projects are performed completely and correctly. Drives Commission vehicles to perform site inspections as required.
5. Informs manufacturers about problems and provides recommendations for design alterations of play equipment. Prepares arrangements with factory representatives for the inspection of design flaws.
6. Uses a variety of hand and power tools. Performs routine welding, masonry, carpentry and mechanical work.
7. Provides training for Commission employees and other groups in various safety considerations in play equipment selection, installation and maintenance as needed. Designs, prepares and presents play equipment safety workshops as needed. Reviews specialized literature to keep up with current design trends.
8. Attends on-site meetings with citizens to respond to their concerns, discuss installations and explain the safety program.

Important Worker Characteristics:

- A. Knowledge of (1) U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines; (2) playground equipment maintenance practices, tools, supplies and equipment; (3) playground equipment inspection techniques; (4) safety; (5) general trades (masonry, carpentry, and welding); (6) technical concepts, methods, symbols; (7) use of technical instruments (protrusion entanglement gauge, dial caliper, angle gauge, feeler gauge, safety probes, Triax compaction tool, laser line levels (laser line, digital, manual), plumb bob); (8) manufacturer specifications and guidelines per the specific pieces of play equipment being utilized; and (8) Commission organization, policies and procedures*.

**Typically acquired or fully developed primarily after employment in this job class.*

- B. Skill and ability to (1) operate tamper resistant hand tools (masonry and carpentry), power tools (metal, plastic and wood grinders and cutters, saws, drills), manual S-hook bender, manual winch and come-along, vehicle and hitch mounted powered winches, torque

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wrenches, ladders, scaffolding, man-lift, measuring tape/wheel, cork screw tripod stand, trucks, forklifts, Dingo, welding equipment, personal computer and applicable software, digital camera; (2) understand American Standard Testing and Materials (ASTM), CPSC standards and symbols, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards as they apply to playgrounds and accessibility and the International Play Equipment Manufacturer's Association (IPEMA) product validation program; (2) coordinate work projects; (3) detect design flaws; (4) assist with the design phase of new playground construction layouts to confirm standards are met; (5) and perform First Aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED).

- C. Skill in problem solving to select, organize and logically process relevant information (verbal, numerical or abstract) to solve a problem. Examples include applying principles to solve practical problems; coordinating staff to repair, install and alter designs of play equipment for proper use and safety; providing technical advice to park designers and inspectors of selection, installation and purchase of play equipment in accordance with U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines and manufacturer specifications; and estimating materials and costs associated with installations, repairs and removals of playground pieces.
- D. Skill in communication to understand verbal and written information (including facts, descriptions and ideas) and to express such information so that others will understand. Examples include reading and comprehending blueprints and schematics (elevations/distances); interpreting and applying rules, regulations and technical methods; preparing and maintaining records, reports and correspondence; presenting information to employees and the public; reading and comprehending manufacturer instructions and installation requirements; and effectively communicate safety concerns during pre-construction meetings.
- E. Interpersonal skills to interact effectively with contacts in a businesslike, customer service-oriented manner; this includes skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships and working as a member of a team.

Minimum Qualifications (MQs):

1. High School diploma or Certificate of General Educational Development (GED).
2. Two (2) years of general trades experience and two (2) years of experience in playground equipment repair and installation.
3. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted, which together total four (4) years.

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4. Obtain within twelve (12) months of hire Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) certification.
5. Valid driver's license in accordance with both State and Commission rules and regulations. Driver's licenses must be unencumbered by restrictions, revocations, suspensions, or points that could limit the employee's ability to drive Commission vehicles or perform driving duties required of their position.
6. Pass Commission medical examination.

Working Conditions:

Works in the field and office. Considerable driving. Exposed to varying weather conditions, heights, dirt, and welding torch and fumes. Ability occasionally lift up to 100 pounds.