**Basketball Towers and Backboards**

**May 2013**

**Issue/Incident:**

* A student sustained a serious cut under his eye when a basketball tower collapsed and fell after the student jumped and held onto the basketball ring.

**Factors/Risks to Consider:**

* The ‘No Swinging’ warning sign displayed on the basketball backboard was ignored at the time of the incident.
* The workplace did not have an established inspection and preventative maintenance program for basketball rings.
* While there was no visible evidence of corrosion externally, the basketball tower had corroded inside resulting in the tower collapsing

**Recommendations:**

* Ensure ‘No Swinging’ warning signs compliant with the mandatory standard are displayed, are intact and visible on all basketball ring backboards.
* Ensure annual inspections are scheduled into the [OHS Activities Calendar](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/governance/ohsactivitiescalendar.xlsx) and are carried out by a structural engineer.
* Ensure regular inspections of basketball towers, backboards and rings are conducted using the [Workplace Inspection Checklists](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/ohs/DEE_EHU-20-2-1_Workplace_Inspection_Checklists.xls)
* Review supervision levels for students during recess period.
* Ensure a spring-loaded ring design, and ring attachment system is used for any new installations

**Further Information:**

Further information can be obtained from DEECD’s [Health, Safety and WorkSafe](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/governance/Pages/healthworksafe.aspx) website or by contacting the DEECD OHS Advisory Service on **1300 074 715** or email[safety@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:safety@edumail.vic.gov.au)**.**

[Guidelines for School Playgrounds – Playground safety management. Safety in Physical Education and Sport](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/spag/curriculum/safety/safesport.htm)

[Product Safety Australia – Basketball rings and backboards](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/974240#h2_63)

[Building Commission, What you need to know about safe installation of basketball rings.](http://www.buildingcommission.com.au/resources/documents/12324_BC_Basketball_DL1.pdf)