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## PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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### National Playground Safety Week focuses on children's safe outdoor play

**Mechanicsburg, Pa.** – According to the National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS), each year 154,292 children ages five to 12 make trips to the emergency department because of playground injuries, and eight children die in playground-related injuries. National Playground Safety Week (NPSW) will be observed from April 27 through May 1, 2020 to focus on children's outdoor play environments, to pledge to use good judgement when playing and to show gratitude for the adults who work tirelessly on maintaining our playgrounds.

ATSPA CEO Krista Brands stated, "Playgrounds can be a great way for children to get exercise and spend time outside. However, lack of or improper supervision is associated with approximately 45 percent of playground-related injuries. Caregivers need to ensure that they are always attentive to children while they're playing."

#### The ATSPA reminds caregivers of the following playground safety tips:

1. **Dress appropriately for the playground.** Remove necklaces, purses, scarves or clothing with drawstrings that can get caught on equipment and pose a strangulation hazard. Helmets should not be worn on playgrounds.
2. **Check equipment.** Ensure that equipment is in proper working order and safely anchored. Check materials and surfaces for temperature. If shade structures do not protect from the sun, the surface can become extremely hot and can even cause burns on the skin. Observe the ground for proper covering. The play area should have sand, pea gravel, wood chips, shredded rubber, turf, or rubber surfacing that meets the depth requirements.
3. **Supervise children.** An attentive adult should always be present at the playground when children are playing.
4. **Ensure the child is playing on age-appropriate equipment.** There should be an area for infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and school age children. Be sure the child is playing on the proper equipment.

For more playground safety tips, please contact the ATSPA at 717-766-1616.

**The American Trauma Society, PA Division (ATSPA) is a non-profit trauma prevention education organization dedicated to reducing suffering, disability and death due to trauma. The ATSPA strives to help all Pennsylvanians survive and lead healthier lives through its trauma prevention education programs. For information, call 717-766-1616 and visit [www.atspa.org](http://www.atspa.org).**

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