

BOUNCY CASTLES – VILLAGE HALL

Summary: It is the responsibility of the **hirer** to make sure that public liability insurance is in place, especially if they are supervising the use of a bouncy castle, and not the supplier. Elmsett & Aldham Village Hall does not provide any insurance for the use of bouncy castles and cannot accept any responsibility in the event of any accident.

Many village halls do not allow bouncy castles, and here's why. What happens if a child has a fall and hits their head, possibly with long term injuries? Who is responsible for supervision, and whose insurance covers the accident? Public liability insurance is what is needed, provided by, either:

- Elmsett & Aldham Village Hall, or
- the **supplier** of the bouncy castle, or
- the **hirer** (i.e., the person who hires the hall and hires the bouncy castle).

Elmsett & Aldham Village Hall **insurance doesn't cover the use of bouncy castles**, mainly because there will be no-one from the Village Hall present to supervise. The Village Hall is only responsible for advising **hirers** that they must put appropriate arrangements in place.

Any responsible **supplier** of a bouncy castle must have insurance, but often their public liability insurance will only cover their own liabilities and so will only apply if they themselves are present to supervise the use of the castle.

The hirer must make sure that the supplier has insurance and find out what cover is provided if the castle is not being supervised by the supplier.

If the insurance cover for the hirer applies only when the castle is supervised by the **supplier**, then the **hirer** is responsible for insurance and for proper supervision. Proper supervision means supervision by an adult over 18. Letting teenagers supervise toddlers will not be allowed by any insurance.

Because it's complicated, you can see why many halls find it easier not to allow bouncy castles.

However, because Elmsett & Aldham Village Hall has plenty of space to allow bouncy castles, and because many hirers appreciate being able to have bouncy castles for their parties, we have decided to allow bouncy castles under the following conditions:

When booking, the **hirer** must declare that they intend to have a bouncy castle. This declaration will imply a commitment to make sure that:

- The bouncy castle will be supervised at all times by an adult (over 18).
- Public liability insurance will be provided either by the **supplier** or the **hirer**.

Before the actual booking, the **hirer** must confirm that insurance is in place, and must be prepared to provide evidence for this.

Elmsett & Aldham Village Hall reserves the right to prohibit the use of the castle, or even to cancel the booking if appropriate evidence is not provided on request. Elmsett & Aldham Village Hall and the **hirers** can be sure that proper insurance is in place, enabling **hirers** to run a happy event knowing that they are properly insured.

Main Hall maximum bouncy castle size: 11 x 15 feet and placed so as not to block fire exits.

Supervision and Safety Instructions

These instructions have been provided by the Elmsett & Aldham Village Hall insurance company. **Hirers** are required to follow these instructions.

1. The castle must be adequately secured
2. Soft matting covering hard surfaces must be placed adjacent to the front or open sides
3. There should be responsible adult supervision, paying close attention to the children at play at all times during its use
4. The number of children using the bouncy castle must be limited to the number recommended in the Hire Company's safety instructions. There must be no overcrowding
5. A rota system for different age or size groups should be operated together with the observance of any age limit of users (it is suggested that children over 10 years of age should not use the equipment)
6. All children must be made to remove footwear, hard or sharp objects such as jewellery, buckles, pens and other similar pocket contents
7. Eating while bouncing or performing acrobatics must not be allowed.

Additionally, the **hirer** should ensure that the Hire Company (the **supplier**):

1. Fully complies with the Health and Safety Executive Guidance Note PM76 – "The Safe Operation of Inflatable Bouncing Devices" (this important guide deals with all aspects of safety)
2. Employs suitably experienced and trained adult personnel, where the Company are responsible for setting up, operation and supervision of the bouncy castle
3. Provides written evidence of a current Public Liability Insurance Policy with a Limit of Indemnity of at least £5 million. This insurance is to cover the liability of the Hire Company. Note that this is unlikely to extend to cover the **hirer** of the equipment.
4. Provides written instructions about the safe setting up, operation and supervision of the equipment, and that the name and address of the manufacturer or supplier is clearly marked upon it.

Hirers' Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Hirers' Signature

Date