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Children injured in Algonquin school slide collapse

Staff report

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An inflatable slide collapsed during a field day at an Algonquin elementary school today, sending six children to hospitals with minor injuries, officials said.

A little before noon the slide -- part of an inflatable "bounce house" -- collapsed at Algonquin Lakes Elementary School, 1401 Compton Dr., said fire Capt. Joe Teson, citing preliminary information.

The 15-foot-high slide collapsed and 17 children were checked over, with six of them taken to local hospitals with minor injuries, said District 300 safety director Gary Chester. All the parents of the 5th graders were notified, and 11 of the children were released to their parents, he said.

The slide was provided by a private vendor, Chester said.

The injuries appeared to be very minor, and the children were taken to hospitals as a precaution, Associate Supt. Sarah Kedroski said.

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The district regularly holds field days, featuring games and rented equipment, but had never had an incident such as this before, she said. This field day was held inside due to cool, wet weather.

The district sent automated emails and phone calls to parents to alert them of what happened.

The school day continued as usual, and Friday will be the last day of classes, she added.

The fire department was notified at noon and responded at 12:03 p.m., according to a department news release. Responders determined that 17 children needed to be evaluated, and as a precaution six were taken to Sherman and Good Shepherd hospitals. All of the injuries were minor, fire officials said.

Tribune photographer Stacey Wescott and Tribune reporter Robert McCoppin contributed.

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