

# On The Alert!

**Date:**

May 19, 2017

**Attention:**

ASCP Members

**Affected Department(s):** Risk Management, Administration, Teachers, Staff

**Applicability:** K-12 and Charter Schools

## FIDGET SPINNERS AND DISTRICT RISK

Fidget spinners are the fad of the moment for students from elementary to college age. Fidget or finger spinners are toys, akin to tops or yoyos, but spun in one's hand rather than on a surface or a string. The user holds a pad at the center, and flicks one of two or more, weighted and rounded blades. The spinner rotates around a bearing at the center. The low friction of the central bearing allows it to spin for a long time.

While there are claims that fidget spinners are stress-relievers, and a therapeutic tool for a spectrum of disorders, it is ultimately a toy.



Fidget spinners can be a distraction and an annoyance in the classroom. Also, serious injuries are on the rise such as eye injuries, lacerations, teeth damage, and even inadvertent ingestion of bearings and other small parts. Some fidget spinners use button batteries to power LED lights.

ASCP recommends that districts consider the implications of fidget spinners and implement appropriate use policies and practices. Some districts are banning fidget spinners at school except for those prescribed for therapy use or provided by the school to comfort students in special education programs. Others are



**Six-bladed fidget spinner: stationary and spinning**

allowing limited use of fidget spinners at recess or other free periods. Ultimately, districts need to be consistent with their policies and practices at all school sites and inform staff of appropriate use policies regarding fidget spinners.

**Please contact your ASCP risk services consultant at (562) 404-8029 to discuss further.**