

ATHLETIC TURF

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California boy killed playing on middle school's unsecured steel soccer goal

May 12, 2004
Athletic Turf News

ATHLETIC TURF

East San Jose, CA — On Thursday, April 22, Luis Miguel Jimenez, 12, a student at Fair Middle School, died when the unsecured steel-pipe soccer goal he was playing on tipped over and struck him on the head. Witnesses said several children were playing on the goal during the lunch time recess.

A crisis team was sent to the 900-student school to help them deal with the shock of the accident.

A representative of the Franklin McKinley School District told a reporter from *The Mercury News* that the steel soccer goals were not secured so that residents in the neighborhood could move them to expand the field for adults. The system's assistant superintendent for business said he was hopeful, but not certain, that the school system's insurance would cover it if a lawsuit is brought as a result of the accident.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that falling soccer goals killed 24 people between 1979 and 1994. In 1995, the CPSC issued "Guidelines for Moveable Soccer Goal Safety," a handbook that gives guidelines on soccer goal design, construction, anchoring, securing, counterweighting, storage and securing. The guidelines can also be [downloaded as a PDF](#).

More info: "[School Soccer Goal Falls on S.J. Boy, Killing Him](#)," *The Mercury News*, April 23, 2004. (Site requires free registration.)

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- The sky's the limit.
- There's a chance I'll get promoted some day.
- In five years, I'll probably have the same position I hold today.
- I'm actually considering other career options now.

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Thanks for taking our survey. We'll publish the complete results in an upcoming issue of AT News.

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