



North Carolina Department of Labor Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau

Rider Safety Campaign

Operator Safety Meeting

It is easy to refer to statistics that prove amusement ride incidents are far down on the Consumer Products Safety Commissions Index of potential hazards. We expect and need your support. Watch your equipment. Watch your riders. Conduct yourself properly and think safety. Remember the majority of all incidents are either:

1. Operator error
2. Patron error
3. A combination of both
4. Ride Related

Let us protect those people whose day of entertainment provides a job for you and me.

Let us all work to make a safe industry even safer.

GENERAL RULES

1. Completely inspect and test run entire device before each operating period.
2. Assist patrons on and off the device when necessary.
3. On devices with safety belts, lap chains or safety bars, be sure they are properly fastened before starting operation.
4. If device is being misused by patrons, shut the operation down until the situation is corrected.
5. Intoxicated persons must not be allowed on the device.
6. Smoking by patrons on the device is not permitted.
7. If unusual noise or conditions arise while operating the device, shut it down and notify your supervisor.
8. Be cautious and ready for the unexpected where children are involved.
9. Patrons waiting for the next ride must be kept outside the fence and away from the moving device.
10. Be alert when the ride is operating and be prepared to take action if an emergency situation arises.
11. While your ride is running you must be within arms reach of the controls.
12. Take pride in operating safely.

DO'S AND DON'TS

DO:

1. Know your ride and check it thoroughly **BEFORE** opening it.
2. Watch your ride and riders; anticipate potential problems.
3. Report any unusual activities or conduct to your supervisor immediately.
4. Think **SAFETY FIRST** – if your ride is not functioning normally, **SHUT IT DOWN**, lock out, and tag out. Get your supervisor and correct the problem.

DON'T:

1. Operate a ride that is not performing properly. (Call your supervisor immediately).
2. Engage in unnecessary conversation while operating your ride. (Stay alert and concentrate on the job at hand).
3. Leave your post to take your break until your replacement is there.
4. Take prescription/over-the-counter medication without knowing its affects on you.
5. Consume alcohol or controlled substances while working.

SLIPS AND FALLS

Although not as highly publicized as a mechanical failure, the most frequent accident on a midway is a slip and fall.

Constantly check the area on and around your ride for objects or liquids that could cause a slip and fall.

Remember, slipping and falling on a sidewalk may only be an embarrassment, falling near a moving ride may be lethal. Watch your step and make sure that where your ride guest's step is free of debris and liquids.

PROCEDURE FOR AN ACCIDENT

1. Call your supervisor and First Aid or other services if required and secure the area.
2. **DO NOT MOVE THE INJURED PERSON.**
3. Cover the injured person to help reduce shock.
4. Assist in crowd control to make way for emergency vehicles.
5. Fill out accident report while the incident is still fresh in your mind.
6. Enroll in a local CPR and/or First Aid Training class.

SKILL LEAVES *NOTHING* TO CHANCE

A skilled, professional ride operator develops his skills by learning all the characteristics of the machine he is operating.

1. Read and study the operating manual; pay close attention to your instructor; if you don't understand, **ASK**.
2. Learn the sound and feel of your machine. A skilled operator hears or feels a difference before a malfunction occurs.
3. Know the proper speed, height requirements, loads or number of passengers permitted your ride; do not exceed them.

A skilled ride operator knows that he must not only watch the ride, but his riders and those around the ride as well.

1. Watch for riders who may be in distress.
2. Pay close attention to youngsters who don't understand moving machinery.
3. Watch out for those watching the ride that may cross barriers and get too close to a moving ride. You don't have to be a rider to be injured.

FIRE PREVENTION

Know where your fire extinguisher is located. Know the type extinguisher and the type of fire on which that extinguisher can be used. Know how to operate your fire extinguisher.

In the event of a fire, do not panic. See to the fire and see to your guests. You and your co-workers know where extinguishers and exits are located, the public does not.

A good fire prevention checklist would include:

1. Trash and litter – do not let it accumulate
2. Housekeeping – keep ride and surrounding area neat and clean
3. Fire Extinguishers – well marked, right type and fully charged
4. Entrance/Exits – unobstructed and well marked
5. Wiring – good connections, good grounds, check for rub wear
6. Equipment – clean, free of excess grease and properly used
7. Flammables – handle with care; store properly
8. Evacuation plan – practice, know your exits, know your assignment.

HOUSEKEEPING – A MESS IS A HAZARD

A messy work area is a dangerous work area. A messy ride area is a hazard for both employees and the public.

Constantly check your ride for loose or fallen objects, for spillage or obstruction. Safe housekeeping is a constant activity that goes on throughout the day and not just by the clean up crew.

Remember, if we have done our job by presenting a clean, exciting and well flashed ride, the public is only looking at the ride; they are not looking for hazards or debris where they walk.

FATIGUE

Operating a ride is hard work. It is tiring. It requires skill and attention. A person must be in good physical and emotional condition to be a good operator.

Everyone knows that a person is unfit to operate a ride when he or she has been drinking, but fatigue can be just as dangerous.

Boredom can be viewed as a form of fatigue. The mind is tired or dull and no longer alert. This is when accidents happen.

You can combat fatigue and boredom by taking your scheduled breaks, walk around, change your routine. Don't let fatigue put you or your ride guests in an unsafe situation.