



The Council for Amusement and Recreational Equipment Safety

An organization of government officials responsible for enforcement of amusement ride and recreational equipment regulations

August 16, 2007

To: C.A.R.E.S. Members

From: Mark F. Mooney, President

RE: Wisdom Response

In June of 2007, the Council for Amusement and Recreational Equipment Safety (C.A.R.E.S.) electronically discussed an April 7, 2007 incident in which a seven year old boy died after being ejected from a Sizzler Amusement Ride (Sizzler) in Hope, Arkansas. As a result of this discussion, the Council voted to send a letter to the manufacturer of the Sizzler, Wisdom Manufacturing, Ltd. (Wisdom), and request that Wisdom "re-evaluate the engineering and design of the Sizzler rides and make the appropriate changes to the ride to abate the current problems that have contributed to past accidents." The letter requested a response from Wisdom by August 15, 2007.

Following the letter sent to Wisdom, another ejection occurred on July 25, 2007 (Harrodsburg, Kentucky) whereby two boys were ejected from the ride after their lap bar opened while the ride was in motion. Fortunately, this ejection did not result in serious injuries.

Further, over the past ten (10) years, the following incidents involving Sizzlers have occurred:

1. 02/22/1997 (Las Vegas, Nevada) Child dies when thrown from the ride after standing up during ride operation.
2. 12/03/2000 (Australia) Ride "collapses" injuring 2. It was determined to be a mechanical issued which resulted in a subsequent bulletin.
3. 07/26/2002 (West Islip, New York) Girl injured falling from the ride – restraint not secure.
4. 01/10/2004 (Broadbeach, Australia) Girl injured as she is thrown from the ride during operation.
5. 08/14/2004 (Ansonia, Connecticut) Woman injured when footrest fails. It was determined it be a mechanical issue which was resulted in a subsequent bulletin.
6. 09/19/2004 (Shrewsbury, Massachusetts) Man killed when thrown from ride due to faulty bolts. It was determined to be a mechanical issue which resulted in a subsequent bulletin.
7. 05/28/2005 (Durango, Colorado) Patron killed after ride overspeeds. It was determined to be a mechanical issue.
8. 12/18/2005 (Austin, Texas) Girl dies when thrown from the ride after slipping out of restraint.
9. 04/07/2007 (Hope, Arkansas) Boy dies when thrown from the ride after standing up during ride operation.

It should be noted that in some cases people may have been standing or kneeling or in a position other than sitting, however, in at least two cases, the lap bar opened enabling the person to be ejected. There was no secondary restraint system in place. This data demonstrates an unacceptable risk of ejection on this ride as currently designed.

Today, I received the response from Wisdom Industries in response to the C.A.R.E.S. request. Attached to that response is a service bulletin dated August 1, 2007 recommending the installation of seat belts on existing Sizzlers. It should be noted that the service bulletin is a recommendation and not a requirement. In light of these incidents, and Wisdom's response to C.A.R.E.S. request, the C.A.R.E.S. Board of Directors is requesting each jurisdiction to consider these facts and take appropriate action in regard to this amusement device to ensure public safety within your jurisdiction.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.