

March 24, 2011

Government takes action to enhance amusement ride safety

Edmonton... The Alberta government has implemented new rules to further enhance amusement ride safety ahead of this year's midway season. The rules were developed as a result of the province's investigation into the Scorpion ride accident on July 16, 2010, at the Calgary Stampede.

"The safety of Albertans is our primary aim and we want them to enjoy their local fairs and exhibitions," said Hector Goudreau, Minister of Municipal Affairs. "Our actions will enhance amusement ride safety, and ensure rides operating in Alberta continue to meet high internationally-recognized standards."

Five actions have been implemented as a result of the Scorpion ride investigation:

- owners must retain on-site inspection reports from all jurisdictions in which an amusement ride has operated for five years;
- owners must complete an owner and Alberta Safety Codes Officer checklist for each ride;
- once a ride deficiency is detected, owners must confirm the ride manufacturer has evaluated the information and reported findings to the owner and Safety Codes Officer;
- if metal fatigue is detected on a ride, independent non-destructive testing will be conducted on the entire ride and repairs made to any defects; and,
- older rides would be considered for additional comprehensive non-destructive testing.

"Amusement ride accidents are rare," added Goudreau. "For more than 20 years, there have been no fatalities or life-threatening injuries related to amusement rides in Alberta. As summer midways gear up for the season, we made our stakeholders aware of the changes to limit the chance of an incident like this occurring in the future."

The Scorpion ride accident analysis was conducted for Municipal Affairs by Anderson and Associates Consulting Engineers, an independent engineering firm. [Click here](#) to view.

-30-

Backgrounder: Amusement ride safety in Alberta - questions and answers

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Sandi Walker
Municipal Affairs Communications
780-427-8862

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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Amusement ride safety in Alberta - questions and answers

How does Alberta set safety standards for amusement rides?

- Rides operating in Alberta must meet high, internationally-recognized Canadian Standards Association standards, as adopted by the *Safety Codes Act*.

How does the province ensure amusement rides in Alberta are safe?

- All amusement rides in Alberta are inspected to ensure they comply with Alberta's *Safety Codes Act*.

Who does the inspections on amusement rides?

- The Alberta Elevating Devices and Amusement Rides Safety Association (AEDARSA), administers the Alberta *Safety Codes Act* for amusement rides, elevating devices and passenger ropeways in the province.

How do the actions taken by government enhance amusement ride safety?

These actions will enhance ride safety by:

- ensuring all parties (ride owners, manufacturers, and Safety Codes Officers) have up-to-date information on all amusement rides operating in Alberta;
- ensuring more rigorous record-keeping by owners and more stringent reporting to manufacturers; and by,
- working with our partners in North America to better share information regarding rides that travel across jurisdictions.

How often are amusement rides inspected in Alberta?

- All amusement rides are reviewed for compliance at least once a year.
- Portable rides must be inspected at the first set up in Alberta each year.
- This year, North American Midway Entertainment will have compliance monitoring reviews completed at all the venues they visit.

What is non-destructive testing?

- This type of testing does not do permanent damage to the part being tested, but can detect the effects of metal fatigue or structural flaws that may not be seen by the naked eye. Testing may include: magnetic particle, liquid penetrant, ultrasonic, or x-rays to detect the extent of a defect.

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