

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - MAY 2003

260. Choking Accident

There was an accident on 3 May 2003 at Six Flags Great America theme park in Gurney, Illinois. An 11 year old girl died shortly after her ride on the Raging Bull roller coaster.

Although the coroner is reported to have not yet confirmed the cause of death, some eyewitnesses indicate that she may have choked on a piece of gum.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) say that at least one other fatality associated with an amusement ride has occurred in similar circumstances, although the known occurrence was as long ago as 1988. On that occasion an 8 year old girl died after a piece of chewing gum lodged in her throat while she was on an amusement ride.

We note that impending passengers are advised against chewing gum or taking other types of food or drink onto some types of ride. These tragic occurrences, although rare, remind us of the reason why.

Committee Members :- Dr Garry Fawcett (Chairman), Mr Richard Barnes, Mr Peter Smith, Mr Ian Grant,
Mr Steve Parker, Mr Eddie Price, Mr Mike Preston & Mr Dave Inman

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