

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - SEPTEMBER 2005

307. Stranded Passengers

There has been another press report recently about passengers being stranded part way round the circuit of a roller coaster, for a period of nearly 1½ hours, at a location in Great Britain. They were eventually recovered by firefighters!

This is not just an issue for roller coasters. There are periodic reports of people being stranded on other rides - recently, for instance, Miami Trip and Superstar rides.

Although we do not know the circumstances in this case, we are reminded that the designs of rides for use in Great Britain need to make provision for the safe evacuation of passengers including any stranded at remote positions. This is a requirement of *Fairgrounds and Amusement Parks - Guidance on Safe Practice* (HSG 175; HSE Books; ISBN 0 7176 1174 4) and of *Safety of Amusement Devices: Design* (NAFLIC; ISBN 0 9546161 0 3).

Reliance on the Fire and Rescue Service for evacuation of passengers from locations where they will foreseeably become stranded is unlikely to be an acceptable approach except in very special circumstances. When it is acceptable, the prior agreement of the local Fire and Rescue Service needs to be obtained and procedures documented.

We observe that it is quite common to find that the designer has put the required equipment / measures in place but that the operator / attendants are not properly familiar (as required by HSG 175) with the emergency procedures in the rides's Operations Manual. It is an expectation that emergency procedures (including evacuation) should be rehearsed periodically and associated equipment needs to be maintained.

We have discussed related matters previously in bulletins TB 058, TB 085 and TB 173.

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