

# Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau



## ANNUAL REPORT FY 2008-2009



**Cherie Berry**  
**Labor Commissioner**

**Jonathan Brooks**  
**Bureau Chief**

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**Assistant Bureau Chief**

## **Dedication**

The information and statistical data contained in this report is a direct reflection of the outstanding effort and dedication contributed by each member of the Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau.

Please take the time needed to review the information contained in this annual report. We are confident you will agree that this Bureau provides the highest level of customer service while maintaining its focus on the safety of the citizens of this great state.

## **Fiscal year 2008-2009 Highlights and Accomplishments**

- Applications for new elevators and alterations and repairs dropped 13.3% in 2008-09 compared to 2007-08. However, new elevator inspections increased by 28.7% during the same period.
- A total of 20,179 routine elevator inspections were completed.
- There were 6,577 amusement rides inspected at 1,218 locations. This is a 7.3% increase over 2007-08 and a 17% increase over 2006-2007.
- The Amusement Safety Star Program for the carnival industry and permanent parks has been finalized. The final program will be for all amusement device owners that wish to participate in the program. The Star Program is completely voluntary and was developed to recognize those companies that operate in our state above what is required by law. These companies are committed to the safety of their patrons and employees alike. All companies who are approved for participation will receive a certificate of participation signed by the Commissioner of Labor. The companies will also receive a flag displaying the Safety Amusement Star logo to fly over their permanent parks and midways.
- There were a total of 46 accidents/incidents investigated in which 40 were reportable. Only five of those accidents/incidents were related to a mechanical error. The remainder was caused by patron error.
- Of the hundreds of thousands riding amusement rides last fiscal year, there were only 10 accidents/incidents investigated. None of these accidents/incidents were mechanically related errors.

### **The Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau**

The Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau is responsible for the proper installation and safe operation of all elevators, escalators, workman's hoists, dumbwaiters, moving walks, aerial passenger tramways, amusement rides, incline railways and lifting devices for persons with disabilities that operate in public establishments (except federal buildings) and private places of employment. It also inspects all of the amusement devices each and every time they are set up for operation in the state. The Bureau inspects all inflatable amusement devices and portable rock walls that operate in the state on an annual basis. The annual inspections of inflatable devices and rock walls are from March to March.

The Bureau consists of thirty (32) field inspectors and five (5) field supervisors as well as four (4) administrative staff; engineer, the assistant chief inspector and the chief inspector. The Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau is receipt-supported which means that the fees we collect pay for the operation of the Bureau and the salaries of the Bureau staff.

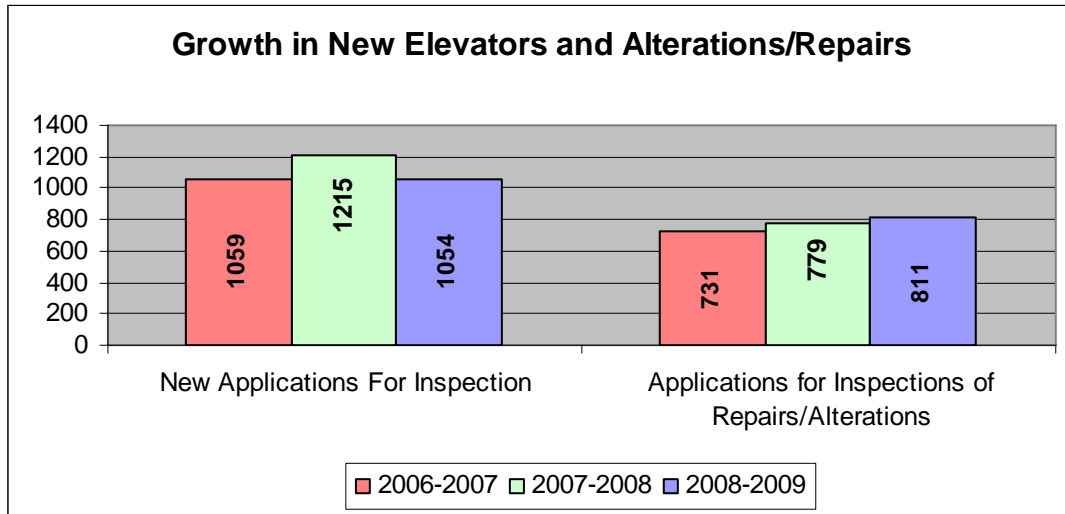
## 2008-2009 Performance and Achievements

### Elevator Inspections

*New Application:* Document submitted by the installer of equipment containing all specific information about the unit as well as the location and owner information and type equipment. This application is reviewed by the Bureau engineer for code compliance.

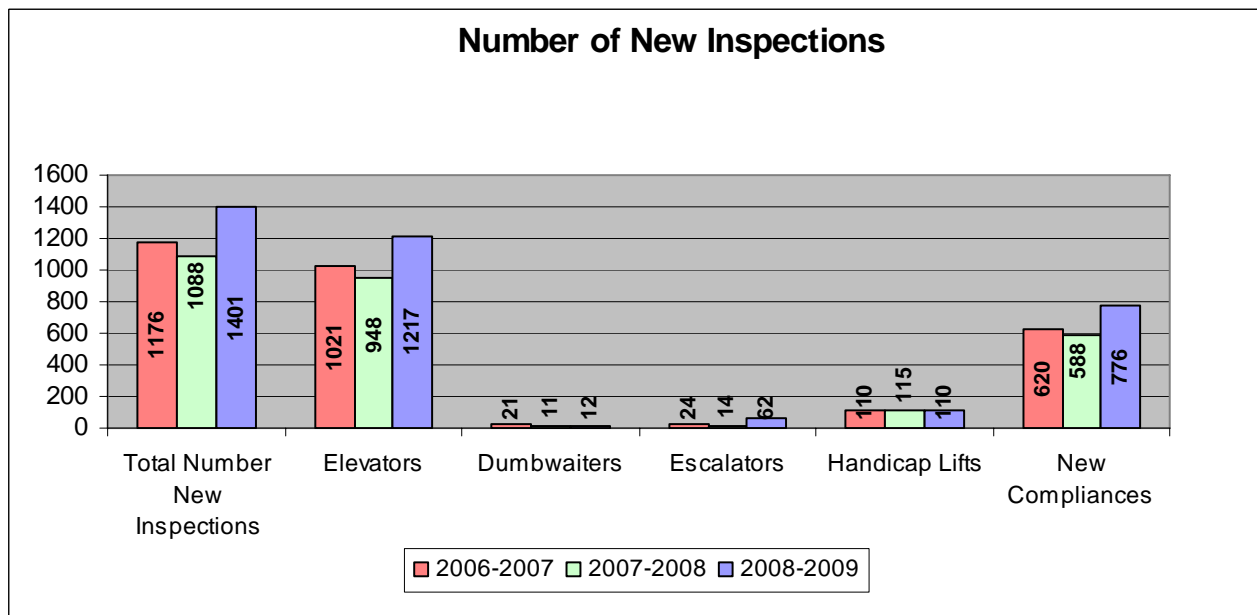
*Application for Repairs/Alterations:* Document submitted by elevator contractors performing the alteration or repair to the equipment. Information provided is type equipment, location, owner information and description of work being performed.

Chart 1



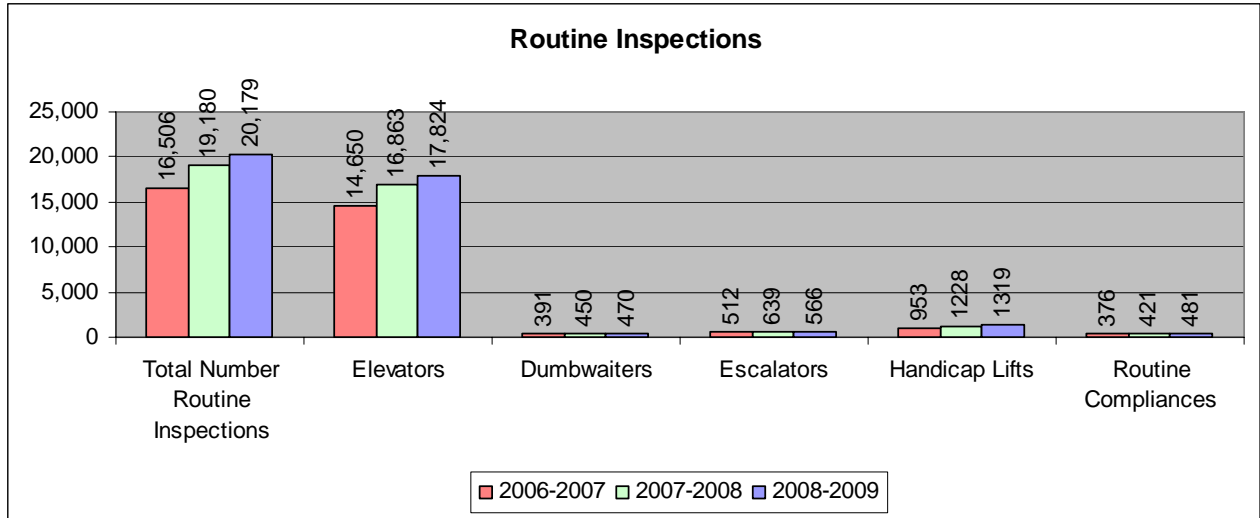
*New Inspection:* When a new unit is installed and the first inspection is conducted for code compliance and approved for public use.

Chart 2



*Routine Inspection:* Inspections conducted on existing certified units to include elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters and handicapped lifts.

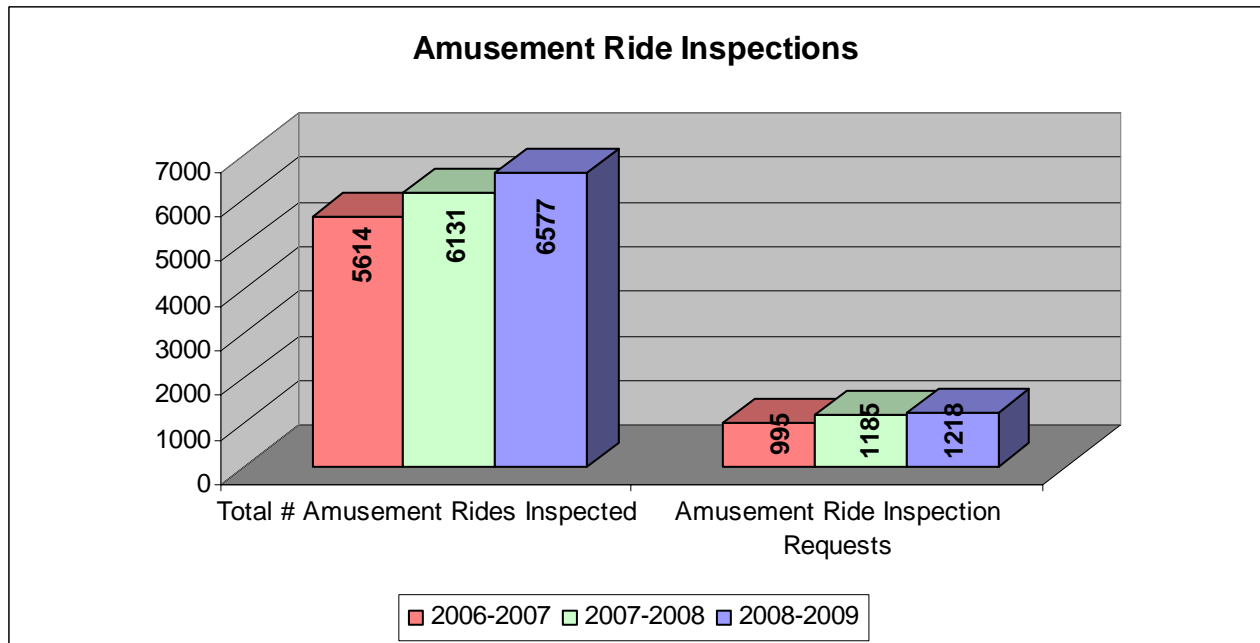
Chart 3



**Amusement Device Inspections**

Amusement device inspections consist of mechanical rides, inflatable rides, go-karts and rock-climbing walls. Tramways and ski lifts are also included in this inspection category. While mechanical rides at permanent parks, such as Carowinds, are inspected once annually, mechanical rides with traveling amusement companies are inspected every time they are set up for operation at fairs, festivals, carnivals and other amusement events.

Chart 4



The Bureau also conducts operational inspections at least once during the operating season for permanent parks and at least once during the operation at a traveling show. The Bureau

inspects all inflatable amusement devices and portable rock walls that operate in the state on an annual basis.

### Accident or Incident Investigations

Accident investigations are conducted according to *North Carolina General Statutes § 95-110.9. Reports required.* (a) *The owner of any device or equipment regulated under the provisions of this Article, or his authorized agent, shall within 24 hours notify the Commissioner of each and every occurrence involving such device or equipment when:*

(1) *The occurrence results in death or injury requiring medical treatment, other than first aid, by a physician. First aid means the one time treatment or observation of scratches, cuts not requiring stitches, burns, splinters and contusions or a diagnostic procedure, including examination and x-rays, which does not ordinarily require medical treatment even though provided by a physician or other licensed personnel; or*

(2) *The occurrence results in damage to the device indicating a substantial defect in design, mechanics, structure or equipment, affecting the future safe operation of the device. No reporting is required in the case of normal wear and tear. The owner of the equipment is required to contact the Bureau.*

An inspector is sent to the location and completes a report that is kept on file.

Chart 5

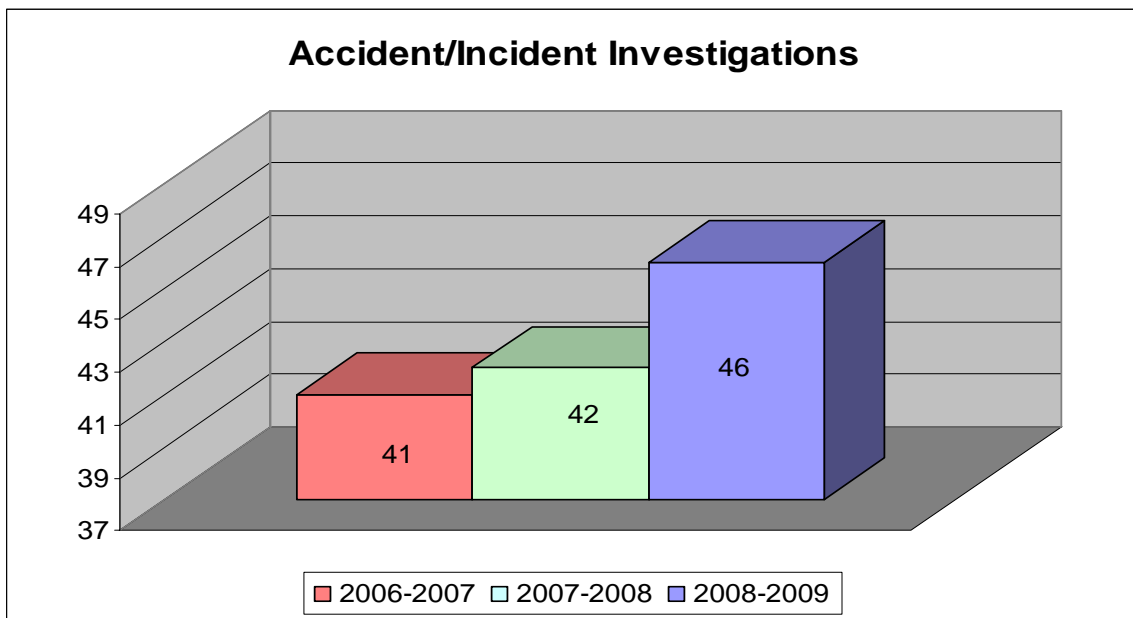


Chart 6 gives the numbers for elevator accidents with reportable and non-reportable incidents, mechanical or patron error.

Chart 6

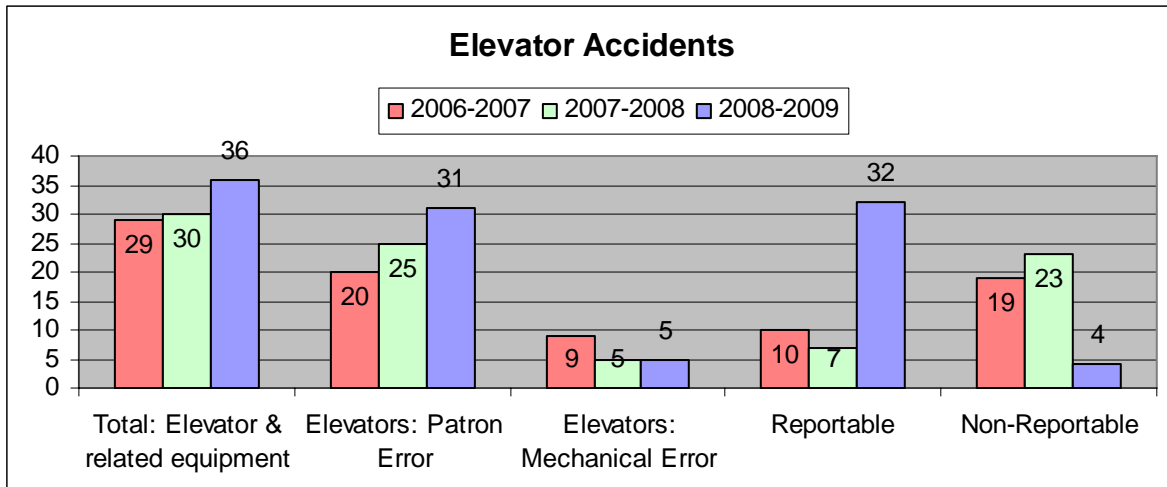
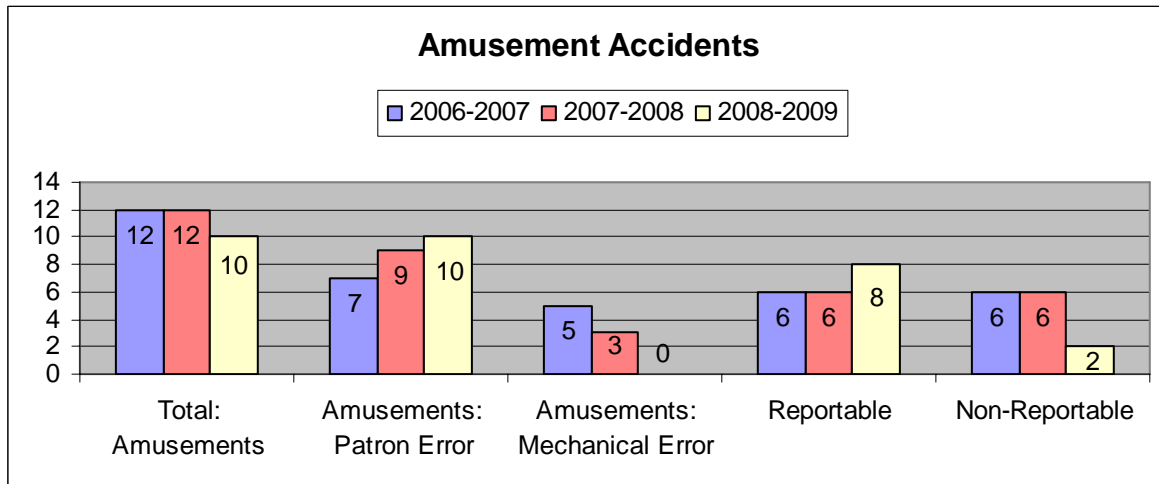


Chart 7 gives the numbers for amusement accidents with mechanical or patron error and reportable and non-reportable incidents.

Chart 7



## Current Bureau Initiatives

1. Improve consistency at all levels of regulation by the implementation of the Elevator Inspectors Apprenticeship Program, providing information for any changes in legislation on code requirements that impact our industry, and continuing to provide training and equipment for field staff. Create checklists for both amusement inspections as well as elevator inspections.
2. Improve the quality of services provided for all our customers by providing online capabilities to access information related to this industry such as electronic submission for all Bureau forms and customer data. Create a web-based search program to assist in gathering information about registered units in order to expedite the application and inspection services we provide.
3. Enhance our outreach programs for both elevator and amusement companies by providing opportunities for communications and feedback to better serve our customers. Enhance web-based programs for gathering information, Elevator and Amusement Advisory Board meetings, and partnership with the North Carolina Fair Association. Also by having representation and being involved in all the associations that deal with our industry that we regulate.
4. Improve and enhance our information technologies capabilities to increase productivity. Continue to focus on future opportunities for education and training as technology and customers needs change.
5. Create new opportunities involving the riding public:
  - Safety Awareness to the general public attending fairs
  - Enhance the Ride Operator Safety Meetings through education and training programs for employees.
6. Develop partnerships with all of our customers to ensure the mission and the vision of this Bureau stays focused on the needs of the customer, while still maintaining a high standard of safety and service.
7. Complete development of a back-office computer application to successfully manage the amusement device program in order to better manage a growing workload and increase productivity.