

## **MINUTES**

### **AMUSEMENT COMPANY MEETING**

**MARCH 3, 2005**

Introductions were made by Jonathan Brooks of the Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau staff attending: Tommy Petty, Western Area Supervisor; Doug Lucas, Central Area Supervisor; Jerry Smith, Eastern Area Supervisor; Nancy Vick, Office Manager; Phyllis Mangum, Processing Assistant; Andy Frazier, Deputy Commissioner, Standards and Inspections.

#### **Payment Plan**

Becky Brown and Audrey Gilman from the Budget Bureau explained there will be a payment plan available for those that are interested. This payment plan was created for those annual inspections fees of \$100 or more. Companies interested should call the Budget office to discuss the payment amounts to be setup as well as the timeframe for sending these payments to the Budget office. All checks must go to the Budget office. There will be a penalty if delinquent in making payments as well as possible revocation of certificates if not paid in a timely manner.

Notify the Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau office on your Location Notice that you send in for inspection of your rides. We will contact Becky Brown and she will contact you to set up your payment plan.

You may now pay your inspection fees by credit card - Mastercard or Visa only.

#### **Website**

Location Notice forms are online for completing and printing. We will soon have the capability for completing and submitting to us online. You will notice a Submit button at the bottom of the page when this is completed. Other forms online: Amusement Data Collection forms, Notification of Purchase or Sale, Inspection of Inflatables form.

The Amusement Advisory Board member list and minutes of the meetings are on our website also. This Board was created to give your industry a voice in decisions that affect your business. Please take any issues to your industry Board member representative. They can get your ideas and issues to the table for discussion.

#### **Contact Us**

A list of inspectors and their Supervisors by area was given to each attendee. If you need information any time, please call your inspector. On weekends or after hours, please call their Supervisor. You may also call the Raleigh office any time and reach someone. Jonathan Brooks, Chief and Tom Chambers, Assistant Chief can be reached via cell phone 24 hours a day. Their cell phone numbers are on the office voicemail after hours.

### Operator Safety Training

There is a handout printed and on our website with operator training guidelines. Last year our Bureau met with hard ride operators throughout the state to instruct them on safety procedures and what they should do while their ride is in operation. We produced a guide for training operators.

The Statutes of Administrative Code is also on our website. It stipulates that all operators must be 18 years of age. There should be training records accessible at the ride or it will be shut down. The owner is responsible for having this documentation accessible at their rides. We will ask pointed questions to the operator in order to see if he/she knows the answers to manufacturer's specifications on operating that particular ride.

Hard Ride companies must have a year's worth of daily inspection sheets accessible as well as a ride manual on site.

### Penalty Sheets

Any ride that is shut down as a result of failing inspection will be issued an Amusement Device Shutdown Order. The Calculation Worksheet will be completed by the inspector to begin the process of calculating your proposed fee amount. They will notify their Supervisor and copies will be sent to the Raleigh office to process. The Bureau will review the penalties listed and notify the owner of the actual penalty given via certified mail. Owners will have a right to pay the penalty fees or appeal the penalty. The appeals process will be in Raleigh by an appeals committee. If a fine is not paid or an appeal not resolved, all rides cannot play – even if penalty is only for one ride.

John Hoomani, Legal Division of the NC Department of Labor explained the process with a flowchart of procedures.

### Inflatables

Process on all calls to report a ride that is playing and has not been inspected: inspector will check on all rides at the event to insure all have been inspected and check operators for training, etc.

Our Bureau does not regulate the small inflatables being sold by retail stores. These are for personal use by families in their backyards. We do not go into backyards. These devices do not meet any codes that we regulate by.

Proper setup is according to manufacturer's specifications. There should be a manual for operations. All operators must be trained and 18 years of age.

### Change in Annual Inspection Timeframe

We are changing the 12-month cycle for annual inspections. Instead of the January 1 to December 31 year for inspection, we will begin this year from March 31 to March 31 the following year. In hearing issues from you all, this may help you in resolving some of them.

## 2004 Fair Season

This Bureau introduced the Rider Safety Program in the 2004 fair season. Bookmarks, coloring books and poster-size signs were printed with a list of rider safety tips. Participating fairs gave bookmarks with or without coupons redeemable for a prize to kids in grades K-5 or older. Coloring books were distributed at a few fairs for kids at the gate. Large signs were posted at fair entrances with safety tips listed. The feedback from fair managers and the public was very good. This program also affected the ride owners and operators. There were fewer incidents. Our effort to educate the children, parents and the public was a huge success. We plan to enhance the program in the upcoming fair season as well as introduce it at festivals in the state.

## Proper Setup

Hard Ride companies must be setup before the inspector arrives. We come at the date and time requested by the owner – be ready at your requested time and do not cause the inspector to wait. If the inspector has to leave because of this, you will be charged the \$250 extra fee per device when he comes back.

All inspections after hours (7:00 am – 7:00 pm), Saturday or Sunday, Holidays will be charged \$250 plus the regular inspection fee.

Any necessary welding must be done by an AMC certified welder. We can ask for their papers and/or a copy of them.

All ride modifications, if different from the original manufacturer's specifications, must have written approval from the manufacturer stating that it is okay. A professional engineer must complete the work.

Rockwalls are inspected annually.

## NDT Testing

Rides that require Non-Destructive Testing must have paperwork in the Raleigh office before sending in the Location Notice.

## Amusement Device Inspection Apprenticeship Program

Our Bureau is currently working with the NC Department of Labor Apprenticeship Bureau to create a program for training inspectors throughout the state on the processes and procedures for inspecting amusement rides. When the job profile is complete, there will be a certified training process and test to certify an inspector. This will create more consistency throughout the state on amusement ride inspections. This is the first program in the US to be created and will be nationally recognized.