



## AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY FACT SHEET

- The Division of Amusement Ride Safety has eight full-time inspectors who regularly inspect more than 4,000 rides across the state, including theme parks, portable rides, aquatic amusement rides and inflatable rides.
- Rides require an annual permit and initial inspection before operation. Re-inspections and/or supplemental inspections are performed at various times and locations across the state.
- A ride inspection ensures the ride is assembled, maintained and operated according to the manufacturer's specifications. The Department's procedure includes:
  - An observation as the ride is being assembled.
  - A static inspection, which is performed on the equipment when it is not running to assure the piece has been assembled correctly and that safety restraints are in good condition.
  - An operational inspection, which is performed while the rides are running to ensure the mechanical components were working in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- The training of our inspectors is a critical strength of our program. The Department's inspectors:
  - Undergo continuous training on all aspects of the program.
  - New inspectors must undergo a minimum of one year training before going out on their own.
  - Inspectors annually attend safety seminars sponsored by Amusement Industries Manufacturers and Suppliers and the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials.
    - Training includes structural integrity, non-destructive testing, electrical safety, hydraulic systems, braking systems, vehicle harnesses and lap restraints, general signage and ride operations.
    - Several inspectors are also certified instructors for these organizations.
- Certain parts of rides require proof of an annual non-destructive test performed by a third-party firm with experts who meet certain national standards. Non-destructive testing consists of analytical equipment and techniques that evaluate the materials, components and systems without causing damage.
- ODA personnel are actively engaged with national organizations in a continuous effort to refine and strengthen amusement ride safety design, manufacture and inspection standards and procedures.

