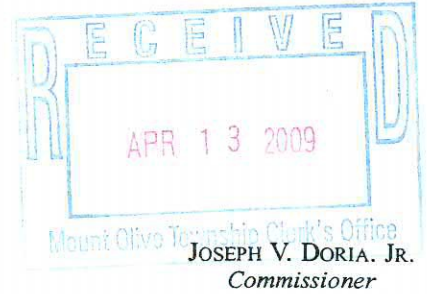




State of New Jersey
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
 Carnival Amusement Ride Safety Program
 101 S. Broad Street
 PO Box 808
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0808



JON S. CORZINE
 Governor

*cc: Admin
 Rec.
 Bldg / Fine
 Police
 Health*

Outreach Program

March 31, 2009

Municipal Clerks

As the season for craft fairs, community day activities, and other recreational and amusement events begins we would like to remind you about the State amusement ride program. Operators of amusement rides and devices are required to register each year with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and operate their rides under the rules and regulations based on the Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Act. Community day activities often provide venues for operators of amusement rides (especially inflatable rides such as slides and bounces). Some of these rides are not registered with the state. Since these events are often held in a very limited time frame, it is difficult for the Department to find unregistered users. These operators often provide services to groups such as PTO's, PTA's, civic groups and other organizations without the benefit of proper permits and inspections. These groups might not be aware of the requirements of the law and therefore might not check that the operator is properly registered and their rides are permitted to operate in the state.

These unregistered and non-permitted rides may pose a danger, because the design of the ride may not have been checked, the ride may not be set up properly, the ride might not be maintained properly and the ride may not be operated properly. This is a health and safety concern for the public. The State rules require that operators be properly trained and that their rides be properly set up and maintained.

We would like to illustrate our concern by noting a particular incident that happened in a South Jersey community during just such a community day activity. The vendor supplied a large inflated slide ride for the guests to use during community day. After the ride was set up and operating, a strong gust of wind made the ride airborne resulting in injury of seven guests. It was found, upon our investigation, that the ride was not permitted to operate in New Jersey and that it had not been installed properly and was therefore not safe for the public to use. This is not an isolated incident, there are many cases when inflated rides become airborne. In a number of cases this has resulted in serious and fatal injuries to small children. Our program attempts to address these issues by enforcing safety rules. We cannot perform that task if we are not aware of such planned community activity. After an incident occurs, we are able to take jurisdiction



and gain compliance. That is after someone, perhaps a child is injured and that is simply too late.

There is one other element of risk the program planners should be aware of. If the rides are found by our staff to be operating illegally, they will be shut down. While no one wants to stop the fun and decrease the possible revenue being raised, we cannot allow illegal operators to operate. This situation can be avoided entirely if legal operators are hired. You are in a position to help operators, patrons, and event-staff avoid problems by ensuring that the rules have been followed.

We are asking that as your community plans various activities, and the sponsors of these activities go through your local permit process, that you inform them of the need to assure that vendors supplying amusement rides and devices show proof of registration of their rides by showing a copy of their permit application and the actual permit applied to the ride. We have attached a fact sheet for your use and posting within your offices so that the public is aware of the requirements and how to determine that rides set up at their event are properly inspected and permitted.

We are also asking for your help with the enforcement of the rider behavior portion of the rules. The rules and the law make it a disorderly person offense when riders are not observing the written warnings and directions posted by the operator. We have been told by many ride operators that the local police are reluctant to take action against unruly riders. In most cases that ride operators were seeking local police help were where the rider was intoxicated or otherwise impaired and was acting in a manner that was reckless to themselves or other patrons. We would appreciate any help the local authorities can give us in enforcing NJSA 5:3 - 36.1 (attached) when such behavior occurs.

Please feel free to contact the Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Program at 609-292-2097, FAX 609-984-7084 or by mail at PO Box 808, Trenton, NJ 08625-0808. The staff is always willing to give advice and assistance to anyone who calls or writes regarding the ride safety program.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Triplett

Supervisor of Enforcement

mtriplett@dca.state.nj.us

cell# (609) 658-2258

Bureau of Code Services

Carnival Amusement Rides Safety Program

Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Program Fact Sheet

Amusement rides and devices are required to have a permit and inspection and are allowed to be operated only after they have been inspected and a permit applied to the ride.

An amusement ride is a mechanical device or devices which carry or convey passengers along, around, or over a fixed or restricted route or course for the purpose of giving its passengers amusement, pleasure, thrills or excitement and any passenger or gravity propelled ride when located in an amusement area or park in which there are other rides covered by this act.

Included in the list of amusement rides are small truck mounted kiddie rides, inflatable bounces, slides, and other inflatable attractions.

Rides must be inspected at least once a year prior to operating for public use and a green inspection sticker with current years, date and a permit to operate with the current years, date are applied to the ride when the ride has passed that annual inspection.

Ride permits are attached to a conspicuous part of the ride so that the public when approaching the ride can easily view it. Inflatable rides are currently permitted in plastic sleeves, attached to the ride with serial numbered track and cargo seals.

A copy of the current years permit is below; a raised seal applied by our inspector and initialed by him or her at the time of validation seals a valid permit.

IF AT ANY TIME YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT A RIDE OR RIDE OPERATOR,
PLEASE CONTACT THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS,
CARNIVAL AND AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY PROGRAM AT 609-292-2097 OR BY
FAX 609-984-7084

