



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
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Lt. Governor

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Commissioner

October 12, 2012

Ken Sharkey
Vertical Reality
6880 North Carter Road
Palmetto Bay, FL 33158

Dear Mr. Sharkey,

I am writing to you to make you aware of a serious situation that occurred at one of the places running the Vertical Reality Spider Mountain and Slide Combo ride. A 7 yo, 48" tall girl was climbing through the levels and hung herself with her feet dangling through the level below. She was not seriously injured, but I am sure you will agree that the situation was serious.

Our inspector was able to recreate the situation. He stuck his head through a rectangle created by the bands. Then he leaned his head forward as she did to look at her feet. Notice the strap his hands are on. See Photo 1. When he did that the strap from the rectangle in front of him moved over his head and behind his neck. See Photo 2. Now he has a strap from behind in front of his neck and the strap from in front behind his neck, (See photo 3) creating great discomfort and choking him. This all occurred with his only action being to tilt his head forward and then come erect again.

Of course he is standing on the flat surface and has more than enough strength to free himself. She, on the other hand had lost her purchase on the layer below and her feet were dangling. She was unable to free herself. The fast action of the operator and a parent freed her. The situation could have had much more dire consequences.

This situation should not be able to occur. What actions are you going to take to eliminate or mitigate this issue?

Regards,

Michael D. Triplett
Supervisor of Enforcement
Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Unit
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Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Unit

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