



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY DIVISION

TO: Owners and inspectors of Expo Wheels manufactured by Expo Wheel LLC in Pennsylvania

FROM: Joseph G. Filoromo, supervisor

SUBJECT: SAFETY ALERT Safety cable and ultrasound test required immediately

DATE: September 3, 2013

Recently an incident occurred where the axle broke on one of these rides. Fortunately, this ride had the recommended safety cable installed and the situation was handled professionally while the ride was evacuated.

I have learned that these rides have some history of problems with the axle and that a new improved axle is now available from the manufacturer but is not a required upgrade.

The ride that you are inspecting may or be perfectly sound, but the inspection point for this issue is not visible. I have spoken to the manufacturer and we conclude that in order to insure the safety of Expo Wheels manufactured by Expo Wheel LLC that do not have the new type axle, that the manufacturer recommended safety cable must be installed and that the ride have an annual Ultrasound Test. The dimensions of the axle remain straight from end to end.

Before operating this ride you must indicate that you do have the safety cable and must forward your Ultrasound Non Destructive Test report to this office.

Reports can be e-mailed to jfiloromo@pa.gov, faxed to 717-754-0228 or by US mail to: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Amusement Ride Safety Division Attn: J. Filoromo 2301 North Cameron Street. / Harrisburg PA 17110-9408

Further information is available from the manufacturer:
Expo Wheels LLC, / 11501 Sherwood Road, / Upper Falls MD 21156
Roger Wadkins direct telephone line: (443) 463-8016

Please give this matter your immediate attention.

THANK YOU

E-mail: JFiloromo@Pa.Gov



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TO: Interested parties
FROM: Joseph G. Filoromo, supervisor
SUBJECT: Expo Wheel Incident
DATE: 9-3-13

At approximately 5:30pm on Sunday, an incident occurred at Wyoming County Fair in Meshoppen Pennsylvania where the axle of a Ferris Wheel broke. The ride operator immediately stopped the ride, securing it in a safe position. The riders were evacuated in a professional manner as local rescue teams worked with the ride owner to safely and calmly evacuate the ride.



EXPO WHEEL

There were no injuries; therefore this is not reportable as an accident.

- The Owner, Jim Houghton Enterprises was well represented at the recent Pennsylvania Ride Safety Seminar and conducted operator training recently on site in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture Amusement Ride Safety Division. A lifetime of experience and said training proved valuable as Mr. Houghton made several spot on decisions.
- The well trained ride operator stopped the ride immediately and called for help. It was critical that the wheel not be turned at that time.
- The owners secured the wheel in a safe position.
- The son of the owner, Jim Houghton Jr. climbed up into the frame of the ride to talk to the temporarily trapped riders, explain what was happening, keep them calm and comfortable and brought them water.

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Amusement Ride safety division senior inspector John Jardine was on site within minutes to address the situation.

- I monitor the location of operating rides and locations of the Quality assurance inspectors. When an incident occurs, the closest available QA Inspector is dispatched. Meanwhile a field office is set up wherever I am with full access to data and files in Harrisburg.
- Inspector Jardine played in important part during the evacuation to maintain calm and coordinate efforts with the Fair, Owner, and the department.
- On Monday I traveled to the location and gathered information for the ongoing investigation.

The cause of this incident is under investigation.

- Flawed inspection, operation or maintenance has already been ruled out.
- The investigation is centered on the design and may affect 7 similar rides in the Commonwealth in the very near future.



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THANK YOU

E-mail: jfiloromo@state.pa.us