



Issuing Entity:
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SERVICE BULLETIN

Ride Manufacturer: O.D. Hopkins Associates, Inc. **Affected Production Dates:** 1988-
 Present **Ride Name:** River Raft Rides **Affected Serial Nos.:** 19001-19019

Abstract Of Issue: Steps to be taken in order to help reduce the possibility of rafts becoming hung up on the ride and potentially overturning.

Reason for Release: During the 1999 operating season, several incidents occurred on raft rides where rafts carrying guests turned over on the course of the ride. One incident, not involving a Hopkins ride, resulted in a fatality. The other incidents, one of which occurred on a Hopkins' raft ride, did result in injuries.

Action To Be Taken: (Inspection, Modification, Replacement, NDT, Order Parts, Manual Revision, Procedural Change, etc.) See information, text and drawings set out below.

Detail Of Issue:
 (Text/Drawings/Schematics)

Effective immediately, all owners and operators of Hopkins raft rides are directed to adhere to the following operating procedures and to make modifications to their ride equipment as applicable. Failure to comply with the instructions set out in this service bulletin could lead to serious injuries or death.

Please note that items #1 through #6 were issued as Service Bulletin ODHA 94-2 in August 1994 and are found in Hopkins' Operations Manuals.

1. In the event a raft becomes hung up or jammed anywhere on the ride, the Emergency Stop button **MUST** be immediately activated. A stopped raft out on the course of the ride is an unusual event that can lead to serious consequences and injury.
2. Your ride was manufactured in accordance with the American Society of Testing Materials guidelines that sets out an average passenger weight of 170 pounds. The capacity of your

raft is 1,360 pounds for an eight-passenger raft and 1,020 pounds for a six-passenger raft. **DO NOT OVERLOAD YOUR BOATS.**

3. Operators must balance the load in the boats. Adults and other large individuals should be seated across the boat from each other in such a manner as to balance the boat as evenly as possible.
4. It is critical to maintain the original water levels established at the time Hopkins set up your ride. If the ride is run with water levels that are higher or lower than set by the manufacturer, boats can get hung up on trough walls, guides, underwater rails or other equipment. Should you need information regarding the proper water level for your ride, contact Hopkins before running your ride.

We recommend that you mark the walls of the trough near the main pump pit to clearly show the proper operating and non-operating water levels. A second set of marks should be placed in such a position that they are visible to at least one ride operator in the station area. Water levels must be checked at regular intervals throughout the operating day.

5. With your water level set properly and with the pumps running, verify that all guide rails or other guide devices extend above the water a minimum of eight inches.
6. You must provide a sufficient number of operators stationed around the ride to allow the entire course of the ride to be under observation at all times. Leaving any areas of the ride unobserved, or with blind spots, is unacceptable and could lead to a dangerous situation should an un-ordinary event take place out of view of operations personnel.
7. Lead in ramps should be added to all weirs with a diameter of six inches (15.24 cm) or greater. For all standard length weirs, three such ramps are required. **(See attached schematic.)** The maximum diameter weir allowed on Hopkins' rides is eight inches (20.32 cm). Any weirs larger than eight inches are not supplied by Hopkins and must be removed.
8. The wooden guides on the trough walls must extend to within 12 inches from the bottom of the trough in order to reduce the possibility of rafts lodging under these guides. In addition, to reduce the possibility these of the wooden guides which are anchored to the trough walls from popping out, vertical tie downs, also anchored to the trough walls, must be added. **(See attached schematic.)**
9. Hopkins continues to recommend that seat belts be used on the rafts, even if your rafts are equipped with Hopkins' exclusive "grab bars". We strongly recommend the aviator type seat belt because of its ease of use. Velcro type belts are acceptable. We recommend against the use of "push button" type seat belts. Seat belt extenders for larger patrons should not be used.

Should you have any questions concerning any of the requirements of this service bulletin, or if you are unsure of the applicability of any portion of the bulletin to your particular ride, please contact the Manager of Customer Service at (603) 753-1012.