

Experts Say The Majority of Amusement Ride Accidents are Caused By Rider Misconduct Chance of Serious Injury 1 in 9 Million

The majority of amusement ride injuries results from the riders themselves and are preventable. A recent study of nearly 350 injuries reported to LARA (Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs) over the last 12 years showed that 80 percent were caused by the rider's own actions. Practicing LARA's safety tips for amusement rides will help reduce rider-caused injuries.

Inexperience, immaturity and horseplay, when coupled with large machines, can lead to serious injury and even death. Thankfully such tragedies are rare. Nationally, the chance of an injury requiring overnight hospitalization due to injuries related to amusement rides is 1 in 9 million, but riders, parents and guardians can do much to prevent such incidents.

To reduce the chance of injury for all ages and still enjoy the ride, LARA offers these tips: Choose rides appropriate for rider abilities, sensitivities and health.

- Choose rides appropriate for rider abilities, sensitivities and health.
- Obey listed age, height, weight, and health restrictions especially those involving heart and back conditions, and pregnancies. Such restrictions were created by the ride designers and manufacturers.
- Don't put a child on a ride he's either too small or young for -- or outgrown.
- Observe and follow all posted ride safety rules and instructions about seating order or loading.
- Keep hands, arms, legs, and feet inside the ride at all times. Secure loose hair, clothing, and objects.
- Adults should never seat a child on their lap unless ride operators indicate it's safe to do so.
- Follow all verbal instructions given by ride operators or provided by recorded announcements.
- Remain seated in the ride until it comes to a complete stop and riders are instructed to exit.
- Use safety equipment provided; stay safely seated and hold on.
- Parents with children should make sure that their children can understand safe and appropriate ride behavior.
- Never force anyone on rides; don't put children on rides they're afraid of.
- If you see any unsafe behavior or conditions on a ride, report it to a ride supervisor or manager immediately.
- Report injuries to a ride supervisor.

About 30 injuries are reported to LARA annually, compared to the estimated 50 million to 100 million rides taken in Michigan each year.

Source: State of Michigan