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TOP 10 SUMMER SAFETY TIPS TO ENSURE FUN AT MARYLAND'S FAIRS, BOARDWALKS AND AMUSEMENT PARKS

BALTIMORE, MD. – The Maryland Department of Labor wants to ensure that all Marylanders and visitors to our State are having a safe and fun summer while enjoying local amusement attractions. To fulfill this mission, the Amusement Ride Safety Unit has deployed inspectors to ensure the safety of amusement rides and attractions at carnivals, fairs and amusement parks throughout the State.

"Safety is our number one priority at the Maryland Department of Labor and our staff is committed to making sure that all local amusement rides are operating at full capacity by providing thorough, on-site inspections across the State," said Maryland Labor Secretary Kelly M. Schulz. "We want to ensure that 2017 will be the safest summer on record by sharing the top ten safety tips for amusement park riders to guarantee an enjoyable experience for all."

Here are the 10 most important tips to keep in mind to make the summer of 2017 fun, memorable and most importantly, safe for everyone.

10 Tips for amusement park riders:

1. Read the posted safety signs and follow the rules.
2. Abide by the height and weight restrictions.
3. Follow the instructions of the ride operator.
4. Check to see if the ride operator is properly identified (wearing a uniform or an identification badge).
5. Use all safety equipment, including seat belts and shoulder harnesses.
6. Alert the ride operator immediately if you notice any issues with the safety equipment or ride.
7. Keep hands, arms and legs inside at all times.
8. Stay in the ride until it comes to a complete stop.
9. Never enter restricted areas to search for missing items. Alert the ride operator if you have lost items during the ride.
10. No selfie sticks! Bringing one on a ride could result in injuries.

Bonus Tips for parents and guardians:

1. Watch while the ride is in progress to monitor your child's safety.
2. Follow the instructions of the operator before, during and after the ride.
3. Explain appropriate and safe behavior to your child. Advise them to remain seated, keep hands and feet inside and follow the operator's instructions.
4. Ask the operator to stop the ride if the child cries or is in distress.
5. Do not allow selfie sticks to be taken on rides.

If an amusement ride appears unsafe, or if the operator does not follow safety guidelines, notify an official at the park, carnival or fair immediately. If an unsafe or dangerous condition exists, you can also contact the Amusement Ride Safety Inspection Unit at [\(410\)767-2990](tel:4107672990) or email DLDSLSafetyDirect-DLLR@maryland.gov.

The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) is committed to safeguarding and protecting Marylanders. We're proud to support the economic stability of the state by providing businesses, the workforce and the consuming public with high quality customer-focused regulatory, employment and training services. For updates and information, please check out our website (www.dllr.state.md.us) and follow DLLR on Twitter (@MD_DLLR) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/DLLR.Maryland).

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