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Top 10 Summer Safety Tips to Ensure Fun at Maryland's Fairs, Boardwalks, and Amusement Parks

BALTIMORE (Aug. 2018) – 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 Inspection Unit has deployed inspectors to ensure the safety of amusement rides and attractions at carnivals, fairs, and amusement parks throughout the state.

“We are very proud of the Amusement Ride Safety Inspection Unit and the work they do to ensure our state’s amusement attractions are safe,” said Labor Secretary Kelly M. Schulz. “Our inspectors work diligently throughout the year to ensure the safety of every Maryland amusement-goer. They travel all across Maryland, inspecting amusement attractions from roller coasters to ski lifts – their dedication is unparalleled.”

Maryland’s full-time amusement ride inspection team prevents injuries, protects property, and saves lives of individuals using amusement attractions through competent and professional onsite inspections. The team annually inspects each ride and attraction throughout the state, as well as inspections each and every time a ride or attraction is moved, as with carnivals and fairs. In 2017, the team inspected 6,430 amusement attractions throughout Maryland.

Inspectors look for faults in the rides, and ensure adherence to safety regulations. Outreach and education during inspections have helped the state, consumers, and ride vendors by increasing awareness of and compliance to safety regulations.

Rider responsibility and safety are equally as important as ride inspections. The Amusement Ride Safety Inspection Unit reminds all riders to be safe riders. To help ensure a good time this amusement season, follow these helpful tips.

10 Tips for Maryland Amusement Park Riders

- **LOOK, READ** and **FOLLOW** the posted rules.
- **OBSERVE** age, height, and weight restrictions.
- **FOLLOW** the instructions of the ride operator.
- **CHECK** that the ride operator is wearing an identification badge.
- **KEEP** hands, arms, and legs inside at all times.
- **USE** safety equipment when provided, such as seat belts and shoulder harnesses.
- **STAY** in the ride until it comes to a complete stop.
- **ALERT** the ride operator if you see issues with the safety equipment or ride.
- **REFRAIN** from entering restricted areas. If you lose an item during the ride, alert the ride operator.
- **NO SELFIE STICKS!** Bringing one on the ride could result in injuries.

Bonus Tips for Parents and Guardians

- Watch while the ride is in progress to monitor your child's safety.
- Follow the instructions of the operator before, during, and after the ride.
- Explain appropriate and safe behavior to your child. Advise them to remain seated, keep hands and feet inside and follow the operator's instructions.
- Ask the operator to stop the ride if the child cries or is in distress.
- 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) 67-2990 or email DLDLISafetyDirect-DLLR@maryland.gov.

DID YOU KNOW? Maryland is the only state with a dedicated full-time amusement ride inspection staff. The unit has existed for more than 40 years, and employs seven people.