

Michael L. Parson
Governor

Sandra K. Karsten
Director, Public Safety

J. Tim Bean
State Fire Marshal



205 Jefferson Street, Suite 1315
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 844
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Telephone: (573) 751 2263
Fax: (573) 526-5971
E-Mail: amusement@dfs.dps.mo.gov
Website: www.dfs.dps.mo.gov

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY**

Memorandum 005

Date: December 31, 2024
To: Amusement Ride Owners
From: Gus Guadamuz
Re: Accident Investigation Guidelines

The Amusement Ride Inspection Unit has partnered with our Fire Investigation Unit to improve our accident investigation process. In accordance with State Statute 316.209 and State Code of Regulations 11 CSR 40-6.045 guidelines have been developed for clarification on what to expect when an amusement ride accident occurs. Please review the following information with your operators.

The department will be following investigation guidelines on a serious physical injury, or a serious incident as follows.

- The operator of the amusement ride shall immediately cease to operate any ride upon which a fatality, serious physical injury or serious incident has occurred.
- Only authorized personnel are to be present at the incident site unless they are needed for safety or requested to assist by the investigators.
- Depending on the size of the scene and the amount of injury victim(s), the Missouri Division of Fire Safety will be sending 2 or more investigators to the scene. At least one from the Investigation Unit and one from the Amusement Ride Inspection Unit.
- The arrival time of the investigators will be determined by the Amusement Ride Chief Inspector in coordination with the Fire Investigation Chief. It will be based on various factors including availability, scheduling constraints and coordination with other investigators, however no later than 24 hours preceding notification of the incident to the department. The Amusement Ride Chief Inspector will communicate the arrival time with the owner to ensure that the investigation and inspection process runs smoothly and efficiently.

- The investigator will be in charge of securing the site incident scene, along with taking statements from operators, witnesses, victims, ride owners, they will be in charge of documenting the scene by taking photographs, collecting on-site camera videos, to also include obtaining local fire department, and EMT reports.
- The investigator and the amusement ride inspector will compile and coordinate the information collected before closing the on-site investigation and inspection. Reports regarding the accident investigation, evidence, and findings will be filed by the investigator and inspector.
- The amusement ride inspector will be requesting manuals and maintenance records to review before he inspects the ride.
- The amusement ride will be inspected by the amusement ride inspector.
- The investigator and the amusement ride inspector will compile and coordinate the information collected before closing the on-site investigation and inspection. Reports regarding the accident investigation, evidence, and findings will be filed by the investigator and inspector.
- Cessation of the ride shall remain in force until inspector makes a determination that the ride is safe for public use and is approved by the Amusement Ride Chief Inspector.
- The investigation will only be concluded by the Amusement Ride Chief Inspector or the Fire Marshal.
- The conclusion will be made by the amusement ride investigator and or the Amusement Ride Chief Inspector.
- Copies of the investigation reports will require a sunshine request to the Division of Fire Safety only when the investigation is closed and approved by the Fire Marshal.