

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

TECHNICAL BULLETIN - APRIL 1999

180. "Bungee Rocket" Accident - Ontario - Update

Earlier this year, in TB 176, we reported on a "Safety Alert" from Ontario's Technical Standards and Safety Authority, Elevating & Amusement Devices Safety Division. The Safety Alert text included the following :-

"This safety alert is issued in an effort to warn of a potential hazard and to prevent future incidents similar to the one which occurred on the amusement device named "Bungee Rocket" at the Canadian Central Exhibition, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on August 24, 1998. The rider was launched upwards at an incline trajectory by means of the two diverging pre-stretched bungee cords. Upon reaching the full vertical height, as expected the rider began to free-fall. As the bungee cords reached their natural length to prevent the rider from the free-fall, the attachment of the rider's full body harness separated from the two side-by-side karabiners connected to the two bungee cords. This separation of the harness attachment caused the rider to free-fall to the ground, and as a result the person suffered fatal injuries."

A more recent notice includes the following additional information indicating TSSA's view of the causes of the fatality, in bringing charges against amusement ride company Anderson Ventures :-

"The four charges under Ontario's Amusement Devices Act against the American-based Anderson Ventures, the registered owner and operator of the "Bungee Rocket, are:

- altering the amusement device through the use of an unapproved component in the form of a nylon extension strap.
- operating an amusement device using equipment which did not meet the technical specifications of amusement device regulations.
- altering the approved design of the amusement device without submitting any engineering changes for approval.
- failing to take the proper safety measures to ensure the safe operation of the amusement device."

Committee Members :- Dr Garry Fawcett (Chairman), Mr Richard Barnes, Mr Bob Nicholls, Mr Robert Casey,
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