



Elevating and Amusement Devices Safety Division	Ref. No.: 508 / 98	Rev. No.:
Safety Alert Bulletin	Date: October 5 /98	Date:

Subject: ALL AMUSEMENT DEVICES INCORPORATING ELASTIC AND NON-ELASTIC SUSPENSION SYSTEMS USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF JUMPING, EJECTING OR SWINGING

Sent to: All Amusement Devices Licensees & Consultants in Ontario, Other National and International Regulatory Authorities & Amusement Devices Standards Writing Organizations

1. BACKGROUND

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.

At the preliminary stage, the investigation appears to indicate that the locking mechanisms of both karabiners allowed the separation of the harness attachment from the karabiners. Further tests are in process, to determine whether it was human error or mechanical failure.

2. ORDER TO ONTARIO LICENSEES

In order to ensure public safety, all amusement devices incorporating elastic and non-elastic suspension systems using karabiners as a sole means for suspending a person for the purpose of jumping, ejecting or swinging, shall be removed from service until further notice. However, licensees may submit an alternate proposal, as a means for supporting a rider, for an engineering evaluation and assessment. The proposal will be reviewed on a priority basis.

Further information will be made available, as appropriate, as to the cause of the accident and the plan of action resulting from the outcome of this investigation upon its completion in order to prevent a similar occurrence.

3. NOTE:

Should it be necessary to contact this office regarding this alert, please call Gord Kanani at (416) 325-2130 or Jeff Garner at (416) 325-1126

E. Stephan, Director

c.c.: Dr. B. Bechard, Regional Coroner