



<b>Elevating and Amusement Devices Safety Program</b>	Ref. No.: 537 / 17
<b>ADVISORY</b>	Date: December 4, 2017

**Subject:** *Free Fall Descenders* versus Auto Belay Devices  
**Distribution:** TSSA website - Amusement Devices Advisory Council – Challenge Course/Zip Line Operators

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## 1. Amusement Devices as Defined by O.Reg 221/01

The Ontario Amusement Devices Regulation (O.Reg 221/01) defines amusement device as;

“amusement device” means a machine, contrivance, structure, vehicle or device, or component attached or to be attached thereto, used to entertain persons by moving them or causing them to be moved and includes the area peripheral thereto if such area is integral to the device;

This advisory intends to inform that products which behave like *free fall descenders* are considered to meet the definition of amusement device, whereas Auto Belay or similar fall prevention devices are not considered amusement devices.

For the purpose of this advisory,

*free fall descenders* are devices which permit patrons to freefall for a duration of time before the device begins to impart a retarding motion on the patron.

Devices or products such as the following meet the criteria of amusement device;

- Quick Jump (by head rush technologies),
- FlightLine Free Fall Device (by head rush technologies),or
- Power Fan (by Dropzone (UK) Ltd)

## 2. Operating an Amusement Device in Ontario

While *free fall descenders* could be used as a sole amusement device attraction, many existing amusement device operators are looking to add *free fall descenders* to existing amusement device attractions such as in zipline courses or in challenge courses.

While TSSA, does not regulate challenges courses, the addition of a *free fall descender*, to such an attraction brings with it the requirements of the Amusement Devices Regulation.

For details on operating and amusement device on Ontario, please refer to the link;

<https://www.tssa.org/en/amusement-devices/resources/Documents/Operating-an-Amusement-Device-in-Ontario.pdf>