



Butler Amusements: A Leader In Carnival Ride Safety

With more than 12 million people passing through Butler Amusements' midways this year, ride safety continues to be paramount. Our safety record is outstanding and one which most other carnival operators are striving to attain.

Industry Involvement

Our President and C.E.O., Earl "Butch" Butler, is a past member of the Board of Directors and past Chairman of the Loss Prevention Committee for Preferred Amusement Risk. This group was an organization of many of the nation's top carnival and circus operators who joined together originally to form an insurance captive. Due to his active involvement with this group many new ideas on safety and loss prevention were instituted into our operations.

Skilled Management

Our management team at Butler Amusements, Inc. includes a Show Safety Coordinator, Unit Managers, Chief Electrician, Transportation Supervisor, Office Managers, Ticket Supervisors, Midway Layout and Design Supervisors, Chief Mechanic, Kiddieland Supervisor, Major and Spectacular Rides Supervisors and Maintenance Shop Supervisor.

Training and Safety Seminars

Training and safety are continuing and ongoing endeavors at Butler Amusements, Inc. Safety seminars are held frequently on site with ride supervisors, operators and electricians required to participate. As part of our training program, the performance of each ride supervisor is reviewed frequently to ensure that the equipment is maintained in accordance with strict manufacturer guidelines. Most of our ride supervisors have come up through the ranks of the company and have been with Butler Amusements, Inc. for many years. It is this "hands on" experience along with our stringent training program that sets Butler Amusements, Inc. apart from the rest.

The ride supervisor is also responsible for training the crew that travels with the ride from location to location. The main crew of each ride will generally stay on board throughout the entire season and many members stay on from season to season.

In addition to hands on training, representatives are sent to industry safety seminars each year. These include the NAARSO (National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials) Ride Safety Seminar, the Pacific Coast Showmen's Association Ride Safety Seminar and the Northwestern Showmen's Club Ride Safety Seminar.

Inspection Process

A main component of our safety program is our daily ride inspections. Prior to opening, each ride on our midway is fully inspected using a checklist of dozens of specific maintenance and safety items.

The California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) has jurisdictional authority over all amusement rides and devices in the State of California. They inspect all portable rides and devices and issue operating permits for each individual ride operating in California on an annual basis.

The California Fair Services Authority is a Joint Powers Agency that administers multiple insurance programs for California fairs. Part of their safety program includes an operational review of the carnivals operating at California fairs.

Ride Condition

The condition of our equipment is very important in ensuring the safety of our customers. Our program of daily ride inspections is utilized as a tool to identify problems that might occur regarding a safety or mechanical issue. Because each unit carries a portable shop and repair facility we are often able to do the repair immediately. This program also helps us plan our schedule of repairs which is carried out while we are in winter quarters each year. Each time a repair is made to a ride it is noted in the maintenance logbook. This provides a detailed history on each piece of equipment for evaluation and development of routine maintenance schedules.

Many carnival ride companies, including our own, do a good job in refurbishing older rides to maintain appearance and mechanical safety standards. The difference with Butler Amusements, Inc. is that we are the most aggressive company in the industry in buying new rides each year. In fact, in the past eleven years we have purchased 84 new rides. We not only want to incorporate in our ride line up the latest in design and thrill features, but also the newest safety components these state-of-the-art attractions provide.

Our Final Word

Although safety has always been of prime concern to Butler Amusements, Inc., our mission stays the same. We are dedicated to providing our customers safe and enjoyable rides, food and concessions comprised of the newest equipment available, presented by employees whose goal is a satisfied customer. We strive to provide affordable family entertainment for our patrons and consider it a privilege to offer attractions that will bring joy and happiness to all ages.