



Amusement/Theme Park Safety

How to Prevent Amusement Park Injuries

What is the Problem?

Approximately 297 million guests visit the 400 United States amusement parks annually and take 1.7 billion rides.¹ 61 of the 1,415 ride-related injuries, or less than 5 percent, required some form of overnight treatment at a hospital.² The rest of the injuries were not as serious, and most could have been prevented by following posted ride safety guidelines.³



Prevention Tips

To prevent/reduce the risk of an injury while visiting an amusement or theme park:

- **Stay cool, and do not get sunburned.** Wear and reapply waterproof sunscreen throughout the day and hydrate with water two to three days prior to your trip.⁴
- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Be aware of where you are, and who is around you.⁵
- **Observe all posted ride safety rules.**⁶
- **Know your health.** Only you know if you have a health condition that would keep you off certain rides. If you have not had a check-up within the past 12 months, make sure to visit your primary care physician before your next theme park visit.⁷
- **Stay in to stay safe.**⁸ Keep hands, arms, legs and feet inside the ride at all times and remain seated in the ride until comes to a complete stop and you are instructed to exit.⁹
- **Know your limits.** The forces of some roller coasters can whip your head around, leaving you at risk for headaches as well as more serious head injuries. Be sure to sit in the middle of the chair and do not slouch or lean to one side.¹⁰
- **Kid Safety.** Parents with young children should make sure that their children can understand safe and appropriate ride behavior.¹¹
- **Alert staff about problems.**¹² If you see any unsafe behavior or condition on a ride, or in the park, report it to a supervisor or manager immediately.¹³



Plan of the Week (POW):

Nearly all amusement park injuries can be prevented.⁵ **NEVER** kick your feet out to the side or front of a “floorless” roller coaster ride or throw your hands in the air while a roller coaster is moving.⁶ **ALWAYS** wear sunscreen, drink plenty of water, read all attraction’s boarding restrictions before getting in line, be aware of your surroundings, stay away from where you do not belong, help your children, and alert staff about any problems that may arise or that you observe.⁷

References

- 1-3,6,9 ,11,13 Amusement Ride Safety Resources. International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA). <http://www.iaapa.org/safety-and-advocacy/safety/amusement-ride-safety>. 2012. Accessed 15-16 May 2013.
- 4-5,7,8,10,12 Niles, Robert. Top 10 Theme Park Safety Tips. National Theme Park Insider. <http://www.themeparkinsider.com/safety/> . 1999-2013 Robert Niles. Accessed 14 May 2013.

NMCPHC Injury Prevention and Violence Free Living Webpage
<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcpHC/health-promotion/injury-violence-free-living/Pages/injury-violence-free-living.aspx>

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