

Not Mandatory



Elevating and Amusement Devices Safety Division	Ref. No.:	Rev. No.:
	221/07	
Safety Alert Bulletin	Date:	Date:
	February 16, 2007	

Subject: Falling from Chair Lifts Hazard
Sent to: All Ski Lift Industry Stakeholders

1. INTRODUCTION

In response to a number of recently reported incidents involving children falling out of chairlifts at resorts within Ontario, a Risk Reduction Group (RRG) has been formed comprised of industry stakeholders including ski operators, manufacturers and the TSSA. The mandate of the RRG is to examine recorded occurrences of persons falling from chairlifts and to make recommendations for short term initiatives and long term solutions that will drive the province toward zero incidents of this type.

2. ALERT

Be advised that current initiatives are in progress to meet the RRG's long term objectives. This bulletin outlines some of the short term objectives that require active and diligent participation of all industry stakeholders in order for successful movement towards zero incidents. With only a few weeks of the 2006/07 season left, **immediate** action is required.

3. INSTRUCTIONS

Short Term Objective: Raise Awareness Now

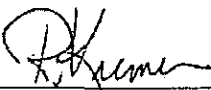
Effective immediately, all licensees shall review their current policies and procedures regarding lift operations, attendant training, and the placement of signs. Share with your staff the contents of this bulletin.

Club policies and procedures shall be reinforced to operators, attendants and ski school instructors, specifically with regards to *young children on chairlifts, the proper place to lift the bar, defining and monitoring acceptable behaviour on a chair lift, and attendant placement during loading/unloading.*

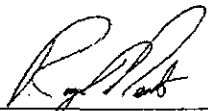
Short Term Objective: Information Gathering to support Long Term Initiatives

You should have already received a copy of a letter from the Ontario Snow Resorts Association regarding this issue, and a copy has been attached for your reference. Additionally, a questionnaire has been created jointly by the TSSA and the RRG in an effort to assist in the RRG in their long term initiatives. The questionnaire can be filled in by hand, and faxed to (416) 231-7525. For an electronic copy of the form, please visit the TSSA website at www.tssa.org. Completed copies of the questionnaire can be emailed to Jim Palmer at jpalmer@tssa.org.

Your response is required on or before March 7, 2007.



Rob Kremer, P. Eng.,
Engineering Manager, EDAD Program



Roger Neafe
Operations Manager, EDAD Program

This Safety Bulletin has been developed in consultation with the Ontario Snow Resorts Association.

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Putting Public Safety First



Passenger Ropeway "Chair Falls" Risk Reduction Group - Licensee Questionnaire

Licensee Name		Installation	
Lift Name		Number	
Contact Name		Phone Number	
Job Title		Email	
SIGNS	1. What is/are the location(s) of your "Prepare to Unload" sign(s)?		
	Horizontal Distance (m):		Please describe terrain (between sign & unloading point):
	Vertical Distance (m):		
SIGNS	2. What is/are the location(s) of your "Lift Bar" sign(s)?		
	Horizontal Distance (m):		Please describe terrain (between sign & unloading point):
	Vertical Distance (m):		
SIGNS	3. Does your lift have any additional signs pertaining to unloading safely and/or the bar placement? If yes, please describe.		
MEASUREMENT	4. After observation, what is the average horizontal distance from the unloading point that patrons lift the bar? How many chairs were observed?		
	Horizontal Distance (m):		Comments:
	Vertical Distance (m):		
SEAT	5. What is the inclination of the chair seat (in degrees) measured from the horizontal?		
SEAT	6. What is the seat padding material? Please describe (i.e. condition, surface, texture, thickness, shape)		

SEAT	7. Are the seat pads OEM? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
	8. Please attach or include a sketch or a photograph of the seat profile and padding if possible.
PROCEDURES	8. Please describe any policies regarding age/supervision requirements for children riding on this lift.
	9. Do you have any additional information or comments you would like to share?
GENERAL	
Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.	

ONTARIO SNOW RESORTS ASSOCIATION

February 22, 2007

From: RRG Committee (OSRA & TSSA)
To: All OSRA Alpine Members
cc: Doppelmayr CTEC, Leitner Poma Canada, TSSA, RRG Committee

On January 5, 2007 there were two lift incidents at two separate resorts, both, coincidentally, involving minors falling out of chairlifts and both resulting in relatively serious injuries. In response, at the request of the TSSA, the ski industry has formed a risk reduction group consisting of representatives from ski resort operators, chair lift manufacturers, the insurance industry, OSRA and the TSSA. The committees' mandate is to review these and other recorded incidents of guests falling from chairlifts and to make recommendations that will prevent future occurrences. The committee is still in the process of collecting facts and deliberating, but, we would like to share a number of preliminary observations for your consideration and comment.

Of 74 recorded falls from chairlifts from 2001 to 2005 inclusive:

- 55% occurred just prior to unloading
- 16% occurred just after loading

Of the 74 recorded falls:

- 59% involved children 10 & under
- All of the incidents reviewed by the committee involved children 10 & under.
- At the loading area, the incidents reviewed tended to be miss loads and hangers initiated at the load point. It is felt that in these cases the lift operator has the greatest influence on prevention. Please review your training programs. Are they explicit about the degree of surveillance required at the loading area? To what extent do they guarantee that riders are seated in the chair? How do they address a chair full of occupants who are too small to lower and/or raise the restraining bar?
- At unload, the incidents reviewed occurred as the bar was being raised and children moved forward on the seat. It is felt that rider education coupled with better designation of the "raise bar" point could affect the frequency and severity of these occurrences. Generally children fall into one or more of the following groups; school electives, ski school, and/or pass holders. Could we effectively create and implement an awareness campaign consisting of simple messages such as "most lift incidents happen when preparing to unload the lift" "most lift accidents happen to children 10 & under" "keep the restraining bar down until otherwise indicated"? Can we set better criteria for the location of the "raise bar" point based on height above the ground or time from the unload point? How can we improve the visual designation of this point?

If you feel your training materials, procedures, or practices address these questions in a unique or innovative way, please let us know.

The TSSA will be issuing a Safety Bulletin between February 23rd / 26th. You will be directed to complete a questionnaire that will assist the RRG Committee. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact the OSRA office.