

Titanic Slide

Triplett, Michael

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From: Michael W Rinehart [rineham@doacs.state.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2001 10:47 AM
To: Isadore Rommes; Carl Dills
Subject: AnotherTitanic Accident

Harry
Bob
Art
Andy
Michelle

In case you missed the amusement group posting.

State: Collapsed slide overloaded, uninspected

By ROBERT F. MOORE

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An inflatable slide that collapsed at an elementary school carnival earlier this week had never been inspected, had too many children on it and may have been improperly anchored, state officials said Thursday. Investigators also said employees from the Asheville-based Master Rental

Inc. did not file a notice of insurance on the slide, inform the state they planned to set up inflatable rides at First Ward Elementary School,

or submit a form showing operators were properly trained to supervise the slide.

The notices, according to Clyde Wagner, who heads the N.C. Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau, are required under state law. The bureau is a division of the N.C. Labor Department.

Owners from Master Rental Inc., which set up the carnival, and Mountain Marketing, which owns the equipment, told state investigators in Asheville Thursday they didn't know about the laws.

"I find it almost unbelievable that rental companies that lease inflatable carnival rides would not know the equipment is regulated," Wagner said. "But it happens."

The 25-foot Titanic slide tipped over and deflated Monday night in the school parking lot, 401 E. Ninth St.

Nine children were injured, none seriously. State officials said at least 11 children were on or near the slide when it tipped over.

The capacity, according to manufacturer's regulations, is four children - two on the stairs and two on the slide.

"That tells us the operator was improperly trained or that the slide was not supervised at all," Wagner said, adding that sanctions would be forthcoming.

School officials have said the slide was supervised and insured. The school's PTA organized the event to reward students who participated in fund-raising activities during the school year.

Tim Melton, a representative of Mountain Marketing, said there were five

inflatables at the carnival. Workers moved four inside the school's gym because of a threat of rain, Melton said. They left the slide in the parking lot. It was not clear late Thursday how the slide was anchored.

Bart Black, owner of Master Rental, called the preliminary findings "fair." When asked why he didn't know the inflatable slides were

regulated by the state, he declined comment. He would not say how long Master Rental has been operating in Asheville.

According to the company's Web site, Master Rental leases 12 inflatable products, including two slides, a dunking booth and an obstacle course.

"We're happy that no one was seriously hurt," Black said. "We're complying with authorities. I can't say anything else."

Melton also regrets the accident occurred.

"I want to find out exactly what happened, so it never happens again," he said.



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Completion Date: _____
Page: 1 of 1

SERVICE BULLETIN

Ride Manufacturer: *Cutting Edge Creations, Inc.* **Affected Production Dates:** *4/96 - 5/03*

Ride Name: *Inflatable Slides* **Affected Serial No:** _____

Model Number: _____

Abstract of Issue:

Reason For Release: *The CPSC and the State of New Jersey has indicated that all Inflatable slides in excess of 15 feet in height be required to have (2) attendants on duty at all times to operate the slide when in use.*

Action To Be Taken (Inspection, Modification, Replacement, NDT, Order Parts, Manual Revision, Procedural Change, etc.)

A new instruction manual for all of Cutting Edge Creations, Inc. slides is available to be mailed to all owners of a CEC Inflatable Slide at no charge by calling 651-209-8600.

Detail Of Issue:

Text/ Drawing(s) / Schematic(s)

This information replaces all existing information previously used on all instructional materials distributed by Cutting Edge Creations for the number of required attendants used on their inflatable slides.