

HSE Information Note

Safety at water rides

People can get into difficulties on fairground rides for a variety of reasons; this is foreseeable, well documented and the risk of serious harm is heightened if the ride experience includes deep and/or moving water. Ride controllers have duties to take reasonably practicable steps to ensure the safety of people on their rides. On water rides HSE expects that:

- given that incidents can happen anywhere on a ride, operators are both able to, and do actively monitor the whole of the ride at all times, either by direct sight or via effective CCTV or similar.
- operators should give clear, unambiguous advice and instructions about safety on the ride before riders board/during boarding.
- operators should be able to identify individual boats and quickly address any emerging problems, firstly through PA systems or similar.
- if a person enters the water, the operator should raise the alarm immediately and staff should be deployed without delay to the correct part of the ride to effect rescue
- operators will have identified and taken action to eliminate, control or manage any additional hazards which may increase the risk of drowning or impede rescue in the event of a rider entering into the water
- any theming or participatory items such as water cannons or similar items whether on the boat or the bank, should not encourage riders to adopt unsafe positions
- suitable and sufficient equipment is readily available along the ride so that rescue can be effected.

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