



Safety Moment

What ride and where is this?



What happened?

- In April 2004 a 16 year old girl died at Oakwood Theme Park, Pembrokeshire on the Hydro Ride
- Hydro Ride
 - 24-seater boat which travels up a steep incline before going over an 85 degree descent and plummeting at speed into a lagoon or plunge-pool 100ft below
- She was ejected when the safety systems of lap bar and belt had not been properly applied

What the CEO said

- The theme park Chief Exec Patrick McNamara said the ride was safe when properly operated.
- Employees had 4 days of training before taking up a role as supervisor on the ride.
- Training included visits to the rides for 15/20 minutes, classroom discussion and simulation.
- Employees were instructed to push down on the safety T-bar and pull up on the belt to ensure both were properly secured.

What the court case found

- The prosecution today acknowledged that Oakwood Leisure Ltd did have a proper training scheme in place for its staff overseeing rides at the theme park.
- It looked at CCTV evidence and found that the company did not have a way of checking that staff properly carried out their instructions.
 - Recordings revealed that on average 29.2% did not have their safety restraints tested.
 - On the worst single day in the week before the tragedy 87.8% of restraints were not tested at all.
- This meant that management had no way of knowing that there was a potentially fatal problem.

Judge Said

- It came as a considerable shock to those in positions of management in the company to see what they saw on the footage.
- Justice Lloyd-Jones said that the recorded footage of the ride made it clear that there was a systemic problem.
- 'I regret to say that the figures derived from the analysis of the CCTV footage make it clear that this was not a failing resulting from the momentary distraction of an employee,' he said.

Application in Network Rail

- Go beyond the obvious
- Follow the greens
- Create the right culture
- Demonstrate your safety leadership