

## Main Ride Operator Interview Notes

April 13, 2008

She arrived at the park around 10:30 and started with the Bigfoot, a kiddie ride.

Later in the day she took her 45 minute break.

After the break, she worked on the superman ride.

She remembers the incident happened around 5pm

The group of three girls rode the ride once without incident. When that ride cycle had ended, the girls got to ride again because there was no line. She remembers the same 3 seats were used the second trip. The seats were checked and the all clear was given. The ride went up.

After about 2seconds a noise like a rollercoaster chain clack was heard. She estimated the ride was about 8 feet off the ground.

When she looked up the cord came out. The Cord was flying about.

The noise and the cable coming out happened at the same time.

The ride operator called 3333, the park phone number for emergencies.

The person answering the phone gave their name (the operator did not remember this persons name at the time of the interview). The person answering the phone asked what was going on.

The ride operator reached her head out and around the operator station while she was explaining the situation to the lady on the phone. The ride operator told the lady on the phone that the guests were screaming. The ride operator was not sure what the people on the ride were screaming due to the volume of noise in the park.

The ride operator said it was normal for riders to scream.

The ride operator said the screaming was totally different this time because all the riders were screaming.

The ride operator could not remember what the lady on the telephone was saying. The ride operator could see the top of the ride. The Ride operator at the other panel told the ride operator to hit estop.

The ride operator hit estop, but the ride came down normally.

The ride operator noticed a shoe had fallen on the blue covering.

The ride operator saw the injured girl. The ride operator noticed she was blinking. The injured girl had shifted down in her seat, and had a leg up in the air.

At first the ride operator thought the injured girl was dead, because she was so far down in the seat.

The ride operator walked over to make sure she wasn't dead.

The ride operator was still on the phone. The ride operator was screaming. The lady on the phone ask questions and tried to get the ride operator to calm down.

Several people came running through the gate and through the line, and began yelling at the ride operator.

The ride operator said she hit the estop, and that caused the harness system to remain closed.

People were yelling at the ride operator to let them out, but she needed a technician to do that.

The other ride operator was screaming, and that operator left the ride.

Some woman came up and called the police. The lady on the telephone with the ride operator hung up the phone to call for first aid. The ride operator then hung up the phone.

A man named Lou came and got the ride operator. Lou took her to Katie, and the ride operator met up with Rachel who took her to the rides office about 5 to 10 minutes after the accident.

The ride operator said people talked to her and she gave a statement. The ride operator said the park employees had to find the other ride operator.

The ride operator called her grandfather to have him come pick her up.

A counselor came to speak with the ride operator. The ride operator left the park between 7:30 and 8:00 pm.

The ride operator confirmed the weather was clear and sunny. She was sure she hit the estop, but the ride started freefall before the estop was hit.

The ride operator stated she made a conscience decision not to hit the estop. The ride operator stated that the cable was swinging, and she thought if she hit the estop the cable might cut the persons on the ride.