

EDWARD J. MARKEY
7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2107
February 23, 2005

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Mr. Hal Stratton, Chairman
Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Chairman Stratton:

Today the Public Safety Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued draft regulations to strengthen the state amusement ride inspection requirements following the tragedy at the church fair in Shrewsbury last fall. The Public Safety draft regulations (available at <http://www.mass.gov/dps/520CMR5rev2005>) make several important proposals, requests public comment, and notices a public hearing on the subject scheduled for April 28, 2005.

The Commissioner is proposing several requirements, including, but not limited to:

1. that inspections of rides occur each time a ride is set up, not just once a year;
2. that all maintenance workers be nationally certified;
3. that maintenance workers be responsible for daily inspections;
4. that operators be trained on specific rides;
5. that companies increase their ride insurance from \$1 million to \$5 million;
6. that rides only be allowed to operate with a sticker attesting that it has been inspected.

I welcome these proposals as part of the ongoing national debate over amusement park ride safety, and I am writing to you now in order to ensure that we do everything prudent and necessary to make sure that these proposals are effective.

You may recall, I wrote to you last September urging that the CPSC exercise its jurisdiction in this case, and you assured me that this was happening. While the CPSC is, unfortunately, still barred from participating in investigations of amusement park ride accidents when they occur in permanent parks, its authority to investigate has not been compromised in the case of so-called "mobile" rides such as the whirling carnival ride at the picnic in Shrewsbury., Massachusetts.

For purposes of assessing the value of recommendations embodied in the new proposed regulations, I would appreciate receiving

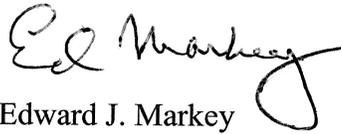
1. the results of CPSC's investigation of the Shrewsbury incident,
2. copies of any notices or recommendations the CPSC may have sent out to other owners of the ride in other states, and the regulators in those states, based on that investigation.

In addition, and importantly, I would ask that you forward to me

1. a summary of the measures being proposed to strengthen ride safety in Massachusetts and
2. a comparison of what is being proposed in Massachusetts to the existing measures in every other state, state-by-state.

Please forward this information to me no later than March 15, 2005. Should you need any further information regarding this request, please contact David Moulton at 202 225 2836 (david.moulton@mail.house.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Markey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "E" and "M".

Edward J. Markey