



When is Safe not Safe enough?

When is safe not safe enough? In 2008 a young lady was partially scalped when her long hair got caught in the drive mechanism of a go kart in southern Utah. She survived with 50 staples, plastic surgery and her left ear reattached. The doctors said she'd make a full recovery. (A similar scalping happened at a go kart track in northern Washington State in 2007)

This safety warning was on each go kart **“DANGER Hair longer than shoulder length must be secured above shoulder. Keep arms and legs in kart at all times.”** Even the safety rules and regulation sign contained the warning about long hair. So what happened here? The safety warning signs were in place. But what about the operators? I'm not familiar with this FEC nor have I ever visited this FEC. But whenever I hear about an incident like this my first thoughts are Training, Training and even more Training! You can never over train your employees.

Another piece of the training puzzle is supervision. How well are your employees supervised? Is there a supervisor on site at all times? How well is the supervisor trained? Is the supervisor a responsible well trained adult or just one of the operators with the most time on the job?

Training should be done from the company approved training manual. Regardless of your facilities size, a formal training manual should be in place and used frequently. I visit many true family owned and operated amusement facilities. They're small and in many cases only family members work at the facility. Even in this situation a formal training manual should be developed and utilized. All employees, **EVEN THE OWNERS**, should be trained. On file should be the documents signed and dated by each person that they have read, understand and will adhere the



policies, procedures and the training they received. And each time they are given additional training, the documentation should be updated.

Training should be performed with all new employees or newly promoted supervisors. Training should be performed whenever there is a change in the operating procedures of the attraction or in the general operation of the amusement facility. Training should be performed every three (3) months for all employees and owners (we all have short retention spans to some extent). Training should be performed whenever there is an incident on an attraction or at the amusement facility. Training should be taken very seriously and done often.