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IWD Warns Parents to Remember Safety at Amusement Parks

Des Moines, Iowa – IWD is warning parents this summer to remember safety at amusement parks. Parents can protect kids from potential hazards by choosing suitable rides, riding along until they're old enough to protect themselves and teaching them how to ride safely.

"Amusement parks and carnivals can be a fun and safe experience but only if riders pay attention and follow all the safety rules," said David Neil, Labor Commissioner.

Below are a few tips to keep in mind when visiting an amusement park:

- Take responsibility for your own safety. There are no mandatory child safety regulations on amusement park rides. Iowa does inspect rides but it's up to you to make sure you and your family are following the rules.
- Don't board a ride that looks unsafe - even though parks and carnivals pay attention to safety, exceptions can occur. Make sure to follow your instincts and don't ride something that troubles you.
- Keep your arms, legs, feet and head inside the ride at all times - sometimes, hands and feet that are dangling out of the car can get caught between the moving car or surrounding structures. Make sure seat belts and lap bars are locked tight - ask for help from the ride operator if you need help.
- Parents should be aware many rides approved for children are designed to fit adult bodies and may leave small riders vulnerable to falls or forceful ejections. Make sure you pay attention to the posted weight and height restrictions.

If you would like more information, visit <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/labor/amusement.htm>.

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