

BUMPER GUARDS

by Henry Gorgas

Everyone in the family entertainment business is aware that liability insurance is a significant percentage of business cost. At Ride Development Company (RDC) safety is DESIGNED into the product, BUILT into the product, and is TAUGHT to those who own and operate RDC equipment.

INSTALLATION

The RDC bumper cars are designed to last decades. This means every unit from frames, decking, and the cars are very heavily constructed. It takes approximately 6 strong persons to put the pieces in place. An installation supervisor from RDC is available to insure the proper installation and safety procedures are followed. He also then gives safety and maintenance training.

DESIGN

RDC uses a pneumatic tube, instead of the usual spring steel, which absorbs the shock of collision. One important safety feature is keeping the correct amount of air in the tube. This results in a lower G-force felt by the rider.

The safety belt is loose fitting to allow a limited amount of movement to the upper body to further lessen the G-force on the rider. This eliminates "whiplash" because the whole body moves, not just the neck and head.

The foot wells are designed for different heights of riders and are placed so the legs act like stabilizers during a collision.

Steering is accomplished with two side levers which riders grip, further stabilizing the rider. These eliminate the steering wheel, thus no facial injuries.



OPERATIONS

THE OPERATOR IS THE KEY TO ACCIDENT PREVENTION. No matter how safe something is designed and built, it is still only as safe as the one running it. Besides being outlined in the RDC manual, we also give safety instructions upon installation. Daily safety and maintenance check logs must be kept on the premises. RDC always asks to see them when they visit an installation. The safety and operating rules must be posted for all to see.

Duties of the operator are as follows, but not limited to:

- ONLY one rider per car.
- ADHERE to the height requirements.
- TRY to adhere to the weight limits. If weight is questionable, be available to assist the rider on and off of the car.
- ASSIST older persons on and off the car
- INSURE that the seatbelts and hood latch straps are secure.
- HAVE a safe place to keep any loose articles riders may have.
- MUST watch riders at all times and stay within easy access to the emergency stop switch.
- STOP any unruly horseplay.

We know the RDC Bumper Cars are a safe product. Only the attendant can prevent any other safety issues.

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Ride Development Company can be reached at www.bumpercar.com or 503.606.4438