



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Whitman Requests Reinspection of Rides on Steel Pier by Labor Department

Due to the continuing number of ride-related accidents and incidents on the Steel Pier in Atlantic City, Gov. Christie Whitman has requested that the Department of Labor immediately reinspect all carnival-amusement rides at that location.

Gov. Whitman said today, "Protecting the safety of the public is of paramount importance. I have asked Labor Commissioner Mel Gelade to take the proper measures to insure that vacationers can expect rides that operate properly and safely."

Six inspectors from the Labor Department's Office of Public Safety Compliance will be at Steel Pier today to reinspect each ride to insure that it is mechanically sound and that ride operators are trained in proper operating procedures for those rides.

Commissioner Gelade said, "I hope this will not be an inconvenience for visitors nor is it in any way designed to be punitive for the ride operators at Steel Pier. These extra checks of the rides and of the training procedures of the workers will not only help insure that this is a safe operation, it should help reassure Steel Pier patrons about the safety of the rides," Gelade said.

The Department's investigation into an August 10 accident on the Wipeout ride on Steel Pier is continuing. The ride has remained closed since Sunday.

