State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
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KIM GUADAGNO
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RICHARD E. CONSTABLE, III
Commissioner

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Dear Educator,

The Department of Community Affairs would like to share with you some very valuable information regarding amusement ride safety. Every year thousands of our children enjoy amusement rides throughout our state. Our job at the DCA Carnival Amusement Ride Safety Unit is to keep our children safe. A key way we help ensure safety is through permitting and inspection of amusement rides.

We are aware that many schools rent inflatable rides (bounce houses) as part of activity days. Because they are relatively inexpensive, many people have chosen to go into the inflatable business but some have done so without the proper inspections or permits. Often this leads to rides being offered for use which are either not designed well or operated well or both. Inflatable rides account for more amusement ride accidents than any other type of ride. In some cases the injuries are serious and preventable. Improper setup of inflatable rides (not being properly staked down) and allowing patrons of disparate sizes to use the ride at the same time, are both examples of cases where children have been seriously injured because the operator was ill informed or trained. These risks are greatly reduced when the operator has had their rides properly permitted and inspected. The attached brochure contains information on how to determine if an inflatable has the necessary approvals.

We are providing this informational material, with hopes you will forward to the appropriate faculty and staff members who coordinate your activity days. Also, we would like to ask if you would post it to your school website to help reach parents of students, since they also often rent this equipment.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important safety issue.

Very truly yours,

Michael Baier, Chief
Bureau of Code Services