

Notes From Last Night's State Fair Accident

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Five people were transported to WakeMed after an accident at the North Carolina State Fair. They were injured around 9:17 p.m. on a ride called the Vortex, located in what's described as the "old Midway section" behind the Expo Center. And/or, the "lower Midway." Sundry notes from various media reports and other sources are below. [See a few photos](#) from Robert Willett and the *News & Observer*, of the ride being investigated after the accident.

- Ride apparently started moving while people were being unloaded.
- Two people suffered serious injuries, three people had minor injuries.
- Two people were released early Friday.
- Patients included a ride operator.
- Patients ages were between fourteen and thirty-nine.

- At 9:16 p.m., the first calls about the incident were received.
- At 9:17 p.m., a deputy reported a person injured on the lower Midway behind the Expo Center.
- EMS response was Bike Team 1, Bike Team 2, EMS 20, EMS 21, EMS 67, EMS 4, EMS 8, D4, D10, M91. ~~Don't know which of those were already staged at the fairgrounds.~~
- EMS 20, EMS 21, EMS 67 were standby units at the Fair. Plus the bike teams and D10, a Medical Branch Director for the Fair.
- Fire response were Western Wake Brush 299 and ATV. The engine remained in service. All three units were already staged at the State Fair.
- By 9:30 p.m., all five of the patients were en route to the hospital.
- Ambulances received police escort during some/all of their route to WakeMed.

- Witness: People were "domino-ing out of the ride."
- Witness: "I heard three or four bangs [that sounded like] baseballs hitting an aluminum floor."
- Witness: People were "falling like rain drops."
- Witness: Everything appeared normal, then, all of a sudden, [there was a] rush of emergency personnel and fairgoers frantically converging to the area.

- Investigation included interviews with thirty-five to forty people
- Investigators are seeking any/all video footage of the accident or aftermath.
- Investigation team included City-County Bureau of Investigation and Department of Labor.

- Ride was manufactured by Technical Park International of Italy.
- First time the ride had been used at the North Carolina State Fair.
- There are either one or two additional "Vortex" rides running at the Fair.
- State laws require three daily inspections of each ride.

- Press conference held at 10:45 p.m. by Wake County Sheriff Donnie Harrison.
- Press conference planned for 10:30 a.m. this morning.
- Fair is operating on normal schedule on Friday.
- Ride will remain closed.

- In 2002, a midway worker was killed at the State Fair, when he was struck by the legs of a passenger on a swinging pendulum ride and thrown from the platform.
- In 1998, three people were injured when three cars collided on a roller coaster.
- What earlier notable ride accidents have happened?
- [Prior blog post](#) on the subject of fires at the State Fair.

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interested - 10/25/13 - 21:52

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