

Incident Summary #II-817415-2019 (#11157) (FINAL)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION	Incident Date	February 27, 2019	
	Location	North Vancouver	
	Regulated industry sector	Passenger ropeways - Above surface ropeway	
	Impact	Qty injuries	1
		Injury description	First aid report describes injury to left hand with no bleeding, no deformity, no point tenderness, no issues with range of motion of the hand, no issues identified with circulation motor sensory checks.
			The 8 year old sustained no significant injuries.
	Injury rating	Insignificant	
	Damage	Damage description	Not Applicable
		Damage rating	None
	Incident rating	Insignificant	
Incident overview	<p>At the bottom station loading area a child passenger was unsuccessful in securely loading themselves onto the moving carrier seat. An adult passenger on the same carrier held on to the child's arms as the carrier progressed up the ropeway lift line. The ropeway was stopped by the bottom station attendant with the carrier located approximately 2 carrier lengths from the outgoing end of the bottom station (outside of fenced low clearance perimeter area). The adult was now hanging on to the child's arms and the child was dangling from the carrier.</p> <p>A group of youths, that were nearby, assembled a makeshift fall protection net using a tower pad and snow fencing, and then positioning it under the dangling passenger.</p> <p>The passenger then dropped, approximately 5m (distance from the bottom of their feet), into the make shift fall protection net.</p>		
INVESTIGATION CONCLUSIONS	Site, system and components	<p>The unit involved was a detachable grip, high speed, quad seat carrier, chairlift. The chairlift bottom station is made up of an overhead machine room. The loading area was set up for winter operations (transportation of skiers and snow boarders).</p> <p>Once it is a passengers turn to load the carrier, they ski up to a line marked for the loading passengers. Once the moving carrier arrives behind them, they quickly sit and are supposed to bring the lap bar down. The lap bar is to help prevent passengers from slipping off the moving carrier once they are properly seated.</p>	
	Failure scenario(s)	The ropeway continued to operate after a child passenger failed to be securely seated in the moving carrier seat.	
	Facts and evidence	Based on operating contractor report, witness statements and review of media video footage, the following incident conditions and narrative can be established.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report provided by operating contractor indicated that a child failed to securely load themselves on to the carrier seat. At some point between the loading area and tower 2 (tower 2 is approximately 2 carrier lengths from the outgoing end of the return station). The child slid out of the carrier seat. The child was held by their arms by an adult 2 positions over from them on the same carrier seat (another passenger was seated between the adult and the child). There were 4 passengers on the seat. The carrier seat bar was in the up position. • The attendant on duty at the bottom station reports: That they were shoveling snow onto the loading ramp, assisting passengers and watching up the lift line when they noticed passengers waiting to load in the line control area shouting at them. The attendant indicated that they could not understand what was being shouted because of the volume of the music that was being played over an audio system installed at the bottom station. • Although the attendant indicated that they did not understand what was being shouted at them the attendant gathered that the passengers were calling for the ropeway to be stopped. The attendant ran to a nearby control pedestal and actuated a stop. • Because the bottom station has an overhead machine room, which covers a significant length of the loading area, and because of the uphill angle profile of the lift line the attendant has a limited view of the lift line. The attendant therefore moved away from the return station so that they were able to see the carrier with the child suspended from the arms of the adult. The attendant then ran back to the attendant hut located at the station and made a phone call to the ski area dispatch office requesting help. • A group of youths nearby organized themselves to set up and improvised fall net using a lift tower pad and a section of snow fencing which they setup under the suspended child. The child managed to remove their skies and then dropped into the makeshift fall protection net. Based on video footage the drop appeared to be approximately 5m. <p>Based on the ski patrol first aid report, injuries were deemed insignificant.</p>
<p>Causes and contributing factors</p>	<p>The likely cause is that the child failed to securely load themselves on to the carrier seat. It cannot be determined if the attendant would have been able to recognize the failure of the child in securely seating themselves on to the carrier seat.</p> <p>It is possible that, the attendant may have been subjected to some distractions in performing the monitoring of the loading area. Those distraction included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the attendant was multi-tasking in shoveling snow and monitoring passenger loading. • Music was being played through an audio system at the bottom station that was of a volume that the attendant had difficulty being able to communicate with passengers.