Water slide accidents in the United States 2000-2003

(Saturday, July 1, 2000) A 6 year old boy was hospitalized in critical condition after an accident on the Lake Plunge water slide ride at Lake Compounce amusement park in Bristol, Connecticut. Lake Plunge is an enclosed water slide. Riders sit upon inner tube as they travel down the slide and are spilled into the park's lake at the end of the ride. A park spokes person told reporters that the inner tube on which the child was riding may have flipped over during the course of the ride. The boy never surfaced after he and his inner tube slid from the slide into the water. The child's father alerted park personnel, and a lifeguard later pulled the child from the water. It is not known how long the child was under water. The victim died a week later.

(Saturday, July 8, 2000) A 3 year old boy was found unconscious in a pool at Splashtown water park in San Antonio, Texas. The child was taken to an area hospital where he died a short time later.

(Thursday, July 5, 2001) At Waterworld Safari water park in Phoenix, Arizona, a 41 year old woman suffered fatal head injuries after falling from a water slide. The slide, one of the park's Kilimanjaro speed slides, is 6 stories high. Eye witnesses say that the woman somehow flipped off the slide during her ride, fell onto the pavement underneath the support structure of the adjacent slide and struck her head on a metal brace.

(Monday, July 30, 2001) The mother of the 6 year old boy who died after an accident at Lake Compounce amusement park in Bristol, Connecticut last year is suing the park's parent company, Kennywood Entertainment, for negligence. The lawsuit claims that the park should have required children to use life jackets, and that the boy should not have been allowed to ride the slide because he was not tall enough to use the ride safely. While a spokesman for the park denies the allegations, a police investigation into the cause of the drowning concluded that the park and its employees did contribute to the child's death. Police said that the boy's father was partly to blame for the accident.

(Sunday, June 30, 2002) Twenty people have been treated at a hospital for illnesses including respiratory problems and vomiting after spending time on water rides at Wyandot Lake Park in Powell, Ohio. Eighteen of those were treated and released while two children remain hospitalized in poor condition. Witnesses reported seeing a green cloud above the waters of the pool.

(Thursday, July 17, 2003) At Splash Down Dunes water park in Porter, Indiana, a 14 year old boy who was helping a lifeguard and a maintenance worker repair a filtration system pipe grate was injured when he was somehow sucked into the pipe and trapped under water for 2-5 minutes. The boy, who is the son of the park's owner, was hospitalized in critical condition.

(Friday, July 18, 2003) A 24 year old maintenance worker was found dead in a pool at Ocean Breeze Waterpark in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The ride is newly constructed, and has not yet been opened to the public. A group of employees had been testing the new ride earlier in the day, but the man was alone when he died.

(Sunday, August 17, 2003) A 45 year old man was injured on a water slide in Hampton Beach, New Hampshire. Emergency medical personnel who responded to the scene say that the man was unconscious when he landed in the pool, and that lifeguards rescued him from the water. He later regained consciousness and complained of a headache, leading investigators to believe that he struck his head while on the slide. The man was hospitalized, but his condition worsened and he finally died.