# Galactic Carnival ride derailment sparks outrage over safety standards in Edinburgh



Families were left in shock when a carnival ride malfunctioned at the Galactic Carnival Festival in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh. The incident occurred on the Waltzers, a traditional funfair ride, where a father named Kevin McNulty was enjoying a day out with his three children and partner. As the ride was in full motion, one of the ride's cars “came completely off” the track, raising severe safety concerns. The sudden breakage led to chaos; footage captured moments of laughter and excitement that quickly turned into screams of panic as the car crashed onto the side of the ride platform.

The disarray was compounded by distressing sounds of children crying and an alarming voice calling out, “oh my God, oh my God.” Kevin later recounted how the car, which had detached from its track, collided with their ride, resulting in a harrowing close call. Fortunately, large speakers provided some unintended protection, preventing the runaway vehicle from causing more serious injuries. In his social media posts, Kevin expressed his ongoing concern for what might have transpired had those equipment barriers not been there.

Photographic evidence shared by McNulty showed loose nuts and bolts scattered on the ground, ostensibly having fallen off the ride during the incident. Alarmingly, Kevin recounted the arrival of a male manager who, rather than prioritising immediate safety, reportedly instructed staff to clear the bolts rapidly to prevent any photographic evidence of the scene. This reaction was met with incredulity from witnesses and sparked outrage over maintenance standards and the management’s commitment to safety. Following the accident, Kevin voiced his belief that the entire fair should have been shut down for a thorough safety inspection.

This incident is not isolated. Similar concerns have arisen at other events, notably when a piece of plastic fell from the Star Flyer ride at Edinburgh's Christmas festival, dropping nearly 60 feet without causing any injuries. However, the event highlighted vulnerabilities and the vital importance of regular inspections of amusement rides. Following that particular incident, safety checks were promptly instituted, reaffirming that the ride's integrity was not compromised.

Concerns surrounding ride safety have become more prominent regionally, especially after a serious incident at M&D's amusement park near Glasgow, where a roller coaster derailed, injuring ten people including eight children. Eyewitness reports detailed how the Tsunami ride failed during operation, underscoring the critical need for stringent safety protocols and routine inspections.

The growing scrutiny of amusement ride safety has led to broader implications. For instance, following the aforementioned roller coaster derailment, a separate investigation revealed that the same safety inspector who cleared the ride also examined Edinburgh's Ferris wheel. This connection raised alarming questions regarding the safety assessments carried out, prompting a temporary closure of the Ferris wheel for additional checks. Though it eventually reopened after passing inspection, this episode highlighted a crucial need for independent evaluations of amusement rides to ensure public safety.

On social media, families expressed deep concern and sympathy for Kevin and his children. One commenter remarked that the situation could have easily ended differently, while another voiced their hope for the family’s swift recovery from the trauma.

As the community continues to grapple with the implications of these events, the paramount concern remains ensuring the safety of not just rides but also the well-being of all fairgoers. With increased public awareness regarding amusement safety, it is ever more crucial that rigorous standards are maintained, ensuring incidents like those experienced at the Galactic Carnival Festival become relics of the past rather than repeated occurrences.

### Reference Map

1: Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6  
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://metro.co.uk/2025/05/11/moment-funfair-ride-flies-off-track-children-board-23066240/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13136353.edinburgh-carnival-ride-closed-seat-breaks-off/> - An incident occurred at Edinburgh's Christmas festival when a piece of plastic from the underside of a seat on the Star Flyer ride detached and fell approximately 60 feet to the ground. No injuries were reported. The ride was immediately closed for safety checks, and organizers emphasized that the incident did not compromise passenger safety. The Star Flyer reopened after thorough inspections confirmed its safety. This event highlights the importance of regular maintenance and safety protocols for amusement rides.
* <https://www.fox13now.com/news/photos-10-injured-after-roller-coaster-derails-at-theme-park-in-scotland> - A roller coaster at M&D's amusement park in Motherwell, near Glasgow, derailed, resulting in injuries to ten individuals, including eight children and two adults. Eyewitnesses reported that the Tsunami ride was full when it came off the tracks. Emergency services responded promptly, and the injured were treated at the scene and transported to the hospital. The incident underscores the critical need for stringent safety measures and regular inspections at amusement parks to prevent such accidents.
* <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/uk/eight-children-two-adults-injured-as-scottish-rollercoaster-derails-1.2700547> - A roller coaster at M&D's amusement park in Motherwell, near Glasgow, derailed, injuring eight children and two adults. Eyewitnesses described the Tsunami ride as being full when it came off the tracks. Emergency services responded swiftly, and the injured were treated at the scene and transported to the hospital. The incident highlights the importance of rigorous safety protocols and regular inspections at amusement parks to ensure the safety of visitors.
* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/the-scariest-experience-of-my-life-young-woman-left-in-shock-after-fairground-ride-falls-apart-while-200ft-in-the-air-9009047.html> - A 23-year-old woman experienced a terrifying incident on the Star Flyer ride at Edinburgh's Christmas fair when part of her seat detached while she was 200 feet in the air. She clung to the ropes for safety until the ride was stopped. The incident led to the ride being closed for maintenance, and the woman was left in shock but unharmed. This event underscores the importance of thorough safety checks and maintenance for amusement rides to prevent such occurrences.
* <https://news.stv.tv/east-central/edinburgh-christmas-market-ride-issues-safety-message-after-birmingham-star-flyer-attraction-crashed> - Following a similar incident in Birmingham where the Star Flyer ride malfunctioned, organizers of Edinburgh's Christmas market reassured visitors about the safety of their Star Flyer attraction. They emphasized that all rides undergo continuous monitoring and rigorous daily safety checks to ensure they meet the highest standards. The incident in Birmingham led to increased scrutiny and highlighted the importance of maintaining public confidence in the safety of amusement rides.
* <https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/14662070.edinburgh-ferris-wheel-shut-down-after-being-checked-by-mds-rollercoaster-crash-safety-inspector/> - Edinburgh's 44-meter Ferris wheel was temporarily closed for a week after it was revealed that the same safety inspector who cleared the M&D's rollercoaster, which later derailed, had also inspected the Ferris wheel. The Health and Safety Executive raised concerns about the inspector's assessments, leading to additional checks on the Ferris wheel. The ride reopened after passing the inspection, highlighting the need for rigorous and independent safety evaluations of amusement rides.