

**CORPORATE SAFETY COMMITTEE – 23RD OCTOBER 2003**

**SUBJECT: BIG CHEESE**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

---

---

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of the involvement of the Corporate Safety Unit in the running of the above event which was recently held at Caerphilly.

**2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Big Cheese, which has run for the past 6 years, is a combination of live entertainment, a funfair, trade and charity stalls, exhibitions and displays.
- 2.2 An Officer of the Corporate Safety Unit was involved in site inspections before, and during, the set up period, as well as undertaking continuous checks on safety during the weekend.
- 2.3 A small number of incidents, which required the attendance of the Safety Officer, occurred in the funfair during the course of the event.
- 2.4 A report was received regarding a loose restraining bar on a carriage on one ride. Following an investigation, the ride operator voluntarily took the carriage, and those on either side, out of service.
- 2.5 A number of reports of electric shocks to members of the public using the ghost train were reported. The Safety Officer advised that the ride should be closed until inspected by a competent Electrical Engineer. The person in charge of the fairground later indicated that he was considering re-opening the ride without further inspection. This prompted a referral to the HSE and a visit to the fairground by an Inspector who issued a Prohibition Notice for the ride.
- 2.6 A small fire occurred on a generator providing power to a ride. It was extinguished before the Fire Service attended the incident. The owner of the generator was advised on preventive measures, which were carried out forthwith.
- 2.7 A few other minor incidents were also attended by the Safety Officer.
- 2.8 A stallholder was selling bow and metal tipped arrows. After consultation with the Police and Council Officers, the arrows were confiscated by the Event Organiser. They were kept in a security container and returned to the stallholder at the end of the event.
- 2.9 A used hypodermic syringe was found at the site. It was removed, using a short litter-picking tool, and placed in a Sharps Box for safe disposal.
- 2.10. A full debriefing session took place after the event when the implications and consequences of each of the incidents were discussed and agreed.

Author: Phil Griffiths, Senior Corporate Safety Officer Ext. 4072  
Consultees: Steve Delahaye, Chief Trading Standards Officer Ext. 5316  
Mike Workman, Commercial Services Manager Ext. 5221  
Roger Webb, Director of the Environment Ext. 5311  
Cabinet Member Cllr. K. Viney  
Cllr P. Bevan, Chairman Corporate Safety Committee