

## Incident Summary #II-1488277-2023 (#30818) (FINAL)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION	Incident Date	December 22, 2022	
	Location	Lower Mainland	
	Regulated industry sector	Passenger ropeways - Above surface ropeway	
	Impact	Qty injuries	1
		Injury description	Pain at back of head, possible concussion symptoms.
		Injury rating	Moderate
	Damage	Damage description	N/A
		Damage rating	None
Incident rating	Moderate		
Incident overview	A child passenger fell over 18 feet from a carrier after the second uphill tower along lift line.		
INVESTIGATION CONCLUSIONS	Site, system and components	The ropeway is a fixed-grip quad chairlift. Up to four passengers can load each chair on ropeway, along with all their equipment to ascend uphill for skiing/snowboarding. Lift operators are responsible for ensuring passengers are properly seated in the carrier prior to leaving load station. Once seated, passengers must lower a restraining device.	
	Failure scenario(s)	Four passengers loaded the chair and put the restraining bar down. One passenger was not properly seated and was situated on top of their ski poles. This passenger then attempted to adjust their seating position to free their poles from underneath of them and slipped off the carrier seat.	
	Facts and evidence	<p><u>Chairlift:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fixed-Grip Quad chair.</li> <li>• Maximum ropeway speed 2.1 m/s.</li> <li>• Daily operating speed 1.5 m/s.</li> <li>• Slow control maximum speed 1.05 m/s.</li> <li>• Ropeway complete slope length of 190 m.</li> <li>• Ropeway mostly utilized by introductory skiers &amp; snowboarders.</li> </ul> <p><u>As Reported by Duty Holder:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-year-old boy fell just after tower #2.</li> <li>• Measured fall at 18'3".</li> <li>• Victim fell into deep untouched snow.</li> <li>• Boy was under 5 feet tall.</li> <li>• First Aid assessed for Spinal and Concussion symptoms.</li> <li>• All required operational signage in place.</li> <li>• High cloud cover, unlimited visibility.</li> <li>• Ropeway daily pre-operation inspection complete/passed.</li> <li>• All carriers inspected before daily operation.</li> <li>• Chair involved inspected and approved by maintenance personnel after incident.</li> </ul>	

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	<p><u>Witness Statements:</u></p> <p>Passengers on chair (1 adult, 2 other minors):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boy loaded on far right (inside) seat of chair.</li> <li>• Boy was crowded by other passengers when loading.</li> <li>• Ski poles were under boy when seated.</li> <li>• Restraining device (bar) was down.</li> <li>• Attempted to adjust seating position once loaded.</li> <li>• Boy slipped off seat and attempted to grab restraining bar.</li> </ul> <p>Observers on ground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heard screaming from chair.</li> <li>• Ropeway was running.</li> <li>• Boy hanging from chair.</li> <li>• Ropeway stopped with chair just passed tower #2.</li> <li>• Boy slipped free from carrier and fell to ground.</li> </ul> <p>Load Operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only attendant outside at load point.</li> <li>• Assisting a child loading when ropeway stopped.</li> <li>• Looked uphill and observed a child fall from chair under lift line.</li> <li>• Contacted top operator to make sure first aid was notified.</li> <li>• Remembered boy had seated on chair without incident.</li> <li>• Started ropeway once all persons clear under lift.</li> </ul> <p>Top Operator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passengers on chairs closer to top station were shouting and waving.</li> <li>• Stopped ropeway.</li> <li>• Observed child dangling from chair and fall instantly.</li> <li>• Called dispatch immediately.</li> <li>• Waited for supervisor until given clearance to start ropeway.</li> </ul> <p><u>Lift Attendant Manual:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children under the age of nine must be accompanied with an intermediate skier/rider adult (over 18 years-old) and comfortable accompanying children.</li> <li>• Must always be two operators at the load point to assist loading children.</li> <li>• Operators to ask adult when loading with children if they need chair slowed or assistance loading child onto chair.</li> <li>• Operators to continuously look uphill to ensure passengers loaded properly and remain safely on carrier.</li> </ul>
<p>Causes and contributing factors</p>	<p>Passenger being crowded by other passengers, not properly seated on chair, sitting on their equipment (ski poles), and trying to adjust themselves very likely caused them to fall from the carrier. The Load attendant being by themselves at the load point may have interrupted their ability to assist all passenger loading requirements; help all child and novice passengers and to continuously look uphill ensuring passenger safety, likely contributed to the incident.</p>