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## **DSPS Ride Inspections Add Another Layer of Safety to State Fair**

*State inspectors in Spin City ahead of opening day Thursday*

**Madison, Wis.** -- Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) Secretary Dan Hereth joined [Wisconsin State Fair](#) CEO Shari Black for a ride on the Crazy Mouse this morning at the State Fairgrounds.

“It was a little scarier than I thought it was going to be,” Black joked afterward. “In the 180 turn sections it looks and feels like you are going to go right over the side.”

The Fair CEO and the head of the state agency that inspects amusement rides did not go over the side, but instead had an exciting and safe trip on the roller coaster, one of a few new rides people can find in Spin City for the 173<sup>rd</sup> State Fair.

Sec. Hereth says his department’s work at the fairgrounds this week is to ensure similarly safe riding throughout the fair.

“We want folks who come to the fair to feel safe,” Hereth explained. “We know that making people and families feel safe is critical to the success of events like this. That’s why some of our inspectors started their work last week and why we have a larger group here this week inspecting rides in the days leading up to opening.”

DSPS registers and regulates amusement rides in Wisconsin, but that is just one layer of amusement ride safety. Ride operators are tasked with recording inspections every day a ride is in operation, and the Wisconsin State Fair takes the further step of bringing in third-party inspectors, as well.

“Finally, safety is also the rider’s responsibility. We want to remind people to follow the guidelines and safety instructions for each individual ride because they’re there to keep you safe,” Hereth said.

In addition to riding the Crazy Mouse, Black and Hereth also spent some time shadowing DSPS staff as they performed inspections, looking at electrical systems, hydraulic systems, sturdiness of welds/joints, and other items.

“We can’t control the weather, but we can impact safety by taking proactive steps,” Black said in a light rain at the fairgrounds this morning. “We thank DSPS for their partnership and work to help us create the safest environment possible for our beloved State Fair.”

You can find a list of Spin City rides and games [here](#) on the State Fair website.