Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish a Utah Department of Transportation (Department) guideline and outline procedures for Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee inspection of passenger ropeway incidents that have resulted in bodily injury, establish a guideline for inspection of conditions with apparent potential to cause bodily injury, and outline the procedures and actions that may be pursued following such inspections. It is intended that information ascertained and disseminated as a result of inspections will assist to protect citizens and visitors from unnecessary mechanical hazards in the design, construction, and operation of passenger ropeways as mandated by Utah Code Annotated 72-11-201(2)(c).

Policy

The Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee will perform inspections of passenger ropeway incidents that have resulted in bodily injury and perform inspections of conditions with apparent potential to cause bodily injury as defined in R920-50-2.1 and 7 in order to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the citizens of Utah while using passenger ropeways. This is particularly true for those incidents that may have involved violations of the provisions of the Utah Code governing ropeways or the Committee’s rules.
Responsibility: Ropeway Safety Engineer

Actions

1. Notify the Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee Chairperson as soon as reasonably possible after receiving notification of an incident to convey preliminary incident information and discuss an inspection plan.

2. Contact the U.S. Forest Service authorized officer as soon as reasonably possible if an incident has occurred on Forest Service land.

3. Evaluate and make recommendation regarding the use of a Qualified Engineers or Ropeway Inspectors to assist in performing an inspection of an incident on ropeway.

Responsibility: Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee

4. Determine if Qualified Engineers or Ropeway Inspectors are necessary to assist in performing inspection of incident or a ropeway. Expenses incurred by these types of inspections may be paid by the Committee through the Transportation Fund using funds collected from registration fees.

Responsibility: Ropeway Safety Engineer

5. Make contact within the Department to make arrangements for placing a Qualified Engineer or Ropeway Inspector under contract to perform the inspection.

6. Establish communication with owner or area operator to schedule an inspection of the incident or ropeway.

7. Perform an inspection of the incident to evaluate the nature and extent of any injuries to people or damage to the ropeway and determine, following inspection, what measures must be taken before public operation is resumed.
8. Make an immediate report to the owners or area operators of the passenger ropeway and to the Committee for appropriate action if it is determined as a result of the incident inspection that a violation of the provisions of the Utah Code governing tramways or Committee’s rules exists or a condition poses immediate and significant danger and requires immediate action.

9. Determine if an order prohibiting or restricting use may be warranted.

10. Contact the State Attorney General’s office to communicate known facts discovered by the incident inspection and if an order prohibiting or restricting use may be warranted.

11. Issue an advisory notice if necessary requiring remedial action to owners or area operators who operate ropeways where the public could face similar hazards.

Responsibility: Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee

12. Receive and evaluate incident inspection report from Committee’s appointed representative. The Committee may take action if it finds violations of the provisions of the Utah Code governing ropeways or the Committee’s rules or that a condition poses immediate and significant danger and requires immediate action consistent with Utah Code Annotated '63-46b-20. The Committee may issue:

a. An advisory notice requiring remedial action

b. An order prohibiting or restricting use if specified remedial action is not taken

c. An order prohibiting use or restricting use

13. Actions outlined in paragraph 12 must be in writing and signed by a member of the Committee or the Committee’s appointed representative. Orders must be delivered to the owners or area operators in control of the ropeway immediately by mail or in person. All orders are subject to the Utah Administrative Procedures Act and R920-50-[17]14.

14. May suspend the Certificate of Registration until the operator complies with applicable codes or bring enforcement proceedings in the district court of the judicial district of the owner or area operator if a passenger ropeway fails to comply with a legal order of the Committee.
15. Coordinate with the Department’s Community Relation’s office if the Committee decides to release or issue any statements to the media. Any statement should be submitted to the State Attorney General office for review.

**Responsibility:** The Department – Community Relations

16. Provide assistance to the Committee in releasing or issuing any statements to media regarding inspections of incidents or ropeways.