



KIDS ON CHAIRLIFT SAFETY

- 1 YOUR SMALL CHILD** (Defined as shorter than 51" to the top of their helmet) **WILL BE ASSISTED** by the lift operator unless instructed differently by their parent or guardian.
- 2 WHEN RIDING A FIXED GRIP CHAIRLIFT WITH YOUR CHILD** (Chairlifts that do not automaticall slow down while loading and unloading), position them on the side next to the lift operator.
- 3 ONCE THEY ARE READY** they should quickly move from the Wait Here signs to the Load Board. They should remember **"BOOTS ON THE BOARD"**.
- 4 AS THE CHAIR APPROACHES THE LOAD BOARD** your child should turn to the outside of the chair, reach back with their free hand, and grab on to the vertical pole. They should remember **"TURN, REACH, and GRAB"**.
- 5 YOU CHILD SHOULD HOLD ON TO THE VERTICAL BAR** next to them all the way up the chairlift. They should remember **"HOLD ON"**.
- 6 YOUR CHILD SHOULD SIT ALL THE WAY BACK** in the chair with their back touching the back of the chair. They should remember **"SIT ALL THE WAY BACK"**.
- 7 YOUR CHILD SHOULD SIT STILL** until they reach the "Unload Here" signs. They should remember **"SIT STILL"**.
- 8 YOUR CHILD SHOULD PLAN TO UNLOAD** at the **"Unload Here"** sign when it is time to get off. Stand up and ski/ride down the ramp.
- 9 HAVE YOUR CHILDREN CLEAR THE RAMP** Watch for others ahead, and ski/ride around them. Move out of the way quickly so others can unload.

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
TO KNOW HOW TO USE AND RIDE THE LIFT SAFELY**

Child Safety on Chairlifts

Relax and Speak Up.

Even if a lift line is long, if you or the child are not ready to get on, let the chair go by.

If you're concerned about a fast fixed-grip lift, ask the lift operator to slow it down. In the end, boarding the lift safely saves everyone time.

Back to Back, Seat to Seat.

Little kids have short legs, so they naturally want to sit on the edge of the seat and bend their knees. Not a good idea. Instead, make sure the child has their back to the chair back and their seat firmly in the chair seat. When you get on the lift pull the child all the way back into the seat, or ask a lift operator to help you by pulling them into the seat from behind.

To make it easy, get a vest with a loop you (or a liftie) can grab. Kinderlift makes a handy vest used by lots of ski schools and available to all.

Be on Your Best Behavior.

Most kids love chairlifts. They are fun and exciting, perfect for telling stories, laughing at jokes, eating snacks and singing songs. But chairlifts are not a good place to wiggle, bounce or turn around to wave at the children in the next chair.

It's important to model good behavior and explain to kids why good behavior on the lifts is essential to their and other's safety.

Easy with The Bar.

Nothing, in my opinion, causes more confusion than trying to get a child safely on a lift at the same time as someone else is trying to lower the comfort bar. There's no rush. The bar is there for your comfort, not to add stress or to wallop people in the head, so take your time. Before you bring down the bar make sure your child is safe, and then ask everyone else if they're ready for the bar.

It is Your Responsibility.

There are several different, but important, tips and reminders for riding chairlifts – whether you are a child or an adult, beginner, or experienced skier or snowboarder. However, there is one over-arching key to keep in mind:

It is your responsibility to understand and know how to ride a chairlift safely and to do so. It is so important that it is one of the key provisions enshrined in the industry's Your Responsibility Code – which has been the industry's Code of Conduct for decades, and is adopted and incorporated into most state skier safety statutes and laws. This is a partial list to be utilized as a guide. When in doubt, slow down, communicate your concerns to others around you, and consider your and other's safety.

History

Bowles v. Squaw Valley Ski Corp (1992)

Common Carrier Status Applies: The California liability statute, Civil Code section 2168, defines a common carrier as any entity that holds itself out to the public as transporting goods or persons from place to place for profit.

- Chair lifts determined to be a “common carrier” which requires lift operators to function with the “highest duty of care” vs “reasonable duty of care”. Operators must not ensure safety, but “must use the utmost care and diligence for their safe carriage, must provide everything necessary for that purpose, and must exercise to that end a reasonable degree of skill.”
- Operators are bound to this as soon as a paying customer, in good faith, attempts to load any chairlift.
- Operators are released from this once the chair-rider disembarks from the chair.

These findings were presented in print by the Loyola Consumer Law Reporter, Volume 4 number 3/Spring, 1992.

***Surface lifts do not hold this level of accountability. They are considered a travel aid and not a common carrier.**

Operators must:

- Complete resort lift-training program
- Grade all ramps and clear snow to 18” for take-off and arrival zones
- “Bump” ALL chairs for guests and personnel on a fixed-grip lift: Quail, Madden & Ellis
- Be aware of all people/guests and chair locations
- Stop lift promptly to avoid a “hanger” or guest from falling from a height due to a failed load
- Postpone guests from loading when attending to any business/communication within shack

****All Chairlift accidents: 35% during loading + 50% during unloading = 85% (DATA 2001 – Chalatlaw)**

Placer County Ski Ordinance 9.28.060 Skier duties—General

E. Skiers shall not board rope tows, wire rope tows, J-bars, T-bars, ski lifts or other similar devices unless they have sufficient ability to use such devices, and skiers shall follow any written or verbal instructions that are given by the ski area operator or representative regarding the use of the devices delineated in this section.

SUMMARY

While proving lift operator negligence is difficult in a court of law, the point is WE WANT TO FACILITATE SAFETY ON CHAIRLIFTS.

Educate our guests: Placer County Ski Ordinance 28.070 - Notice of skier duties. *Ski area operators shall provide notice to skiers of their duties as delineated in this article in a manner reasonably calculated to inform skiers of those duties. (Prior code § 12.136)*

RIDER RESPONSIBILITY

“Your Responsibility Code” – Part of Placer County Ski Ordinance

Summary: Must obey all signs. Must attach equipment properly. Must not be under the influence of drugs/alcohol (an illegal activity). Must safely slide on and off during loading/unloading. Must sit calmly; no reaching out or forward to touch towers or trees. Must load/unload at designated areas only.

KIDS ON LIFTS!

Teach kids to load lifts properly without any adjustment to the speed or function of the lift. (Exceptions should be exceptional)

Small children (less than 7 yrs or 130cm/50in tall) must not ride alone or in the middle without an adult beside them.

Always have kids HOLD ON. Safety/Comfort bars are a hazard if the children are not able to easily grab them. Prefer to have them HOLD ON and SIT STILL.

***Ski Instructors/Coaches**

Loading Procedure:

- Line up side by side
- Teach children to ALTERNATE
- Approach WAIT HERE sign as a group
- Follow the chair AS A GROUP
- Smallest child goes near Lift Op
- Back to back, bottom to bottom = bottom to back
- SIT STILL = tell stories, but screaming or pretending to push someone is unacceptable
- No child rides alone!
TRIPLE CHAIR = \Child---Empty---Child/ or \Child---Adult---Child/

Quad Express= \Child-Empty-Empty-Child/ or \Child—Adult—Child—Child/

***Lift Ops & Kids on lifts**

When kids are around, lift operations is a very ACTIVE and full time job!

- Coach all guests and kids on proper Loading Procedure
- For kids less than 130cm/50in tall, follow the chair and gently scoop child to back of the seat
- Assist with the Comfort Bar when necessary

******Assist or coach EVERY kid EVERY time!**

******Set up bamboo at WAIT HERE with height measurement to make it easier to tell height.**

******When in doubt, help them out**

WIND MANAGEMENT: During wind events, it is safer to fully load each chair and put the bar down. Please work hard to have an adult chaperone on each lift, or mix older kids with the younger kids.

As a Chairlift Rider

- Prior to using any lift, you must have sufficient physical dexterity, ability and knowledge to safely board, ride, and unload lifts.
- It is illegal for a skier/rider to use a lift while alcohol or drugs impair their abilities.
- Be ready to load before you get to the load board.
- If the lift is equipped with a comfort bar, use it.
- Sit back as far as possible and don't lean on the comfort bar. Follow all posted information and directions from the attendants.
- Move away from the unload area as soon as you've unloaded from the lift.

As a Chairlift Operator

- Before an employee, as a lift assistant, assists any guests on or off a chairlift they will be required to go through the company lift-training program.
- Shovel and grade lift ramp before starting the chairlift.
- Slow chairs to shovel and grade lift ramp during business hours.
- Always be aware of the positions of moving chairs and stay clear of their pathways.
- All employees/lift operators must know and follow the operating procedures of that particular lift.
- Use Designated Trails Only! Remember, skiing or snowboarding on Non-Designated Trails while on the clock is a safety rule violation