

# THE INDUSTRY CELEBRATES ITS NINTH ANNUAL NATIONAL ELEVATOR ESCALATOR SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK



*by Barbara Allen, Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation, Program Director*



*Safe-T Rider® presentations*

**O**ne hundred and forty nine years ago, when Elijah Otis invented the safety elevator and 110 years ago, when Jesse Reno invented the escalator, I am sure they would never have believed that today there would exist an organization whose sole mission was to educate the public on the safe and proper use of their inventions. The Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation (EESF) has promoted the National Elevator Escalator Safety Awareness Week for the past nine years. The occasion is celebrated annually on the second full week of November. This week is dedicated to spreading the safety message to the public. Many organizations, companies and individuals throughout the country are committed to keeping their communities safer by promoting elevator and escalator safety and striving to maintain our industry's low accident record.



**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Due to the events of September 11, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) employees were tied up with the recovery from the terrorist attack on the Pentagon and were therefore not able to participate in National Safety Week. WMATA had already purchased their materials from the Foundation for their celebration but were not able to use them at that time. WMATA assures us they will participate in the 2002 National Safety Week.

**MINNESOTA**

Phil Cleminson, vice president of Elevator Consulting Services, Inc. in Lakeville, Minnesota, once again contacted the governor's office to have National Safety Week proclaimed. Governor Jesse Ventura signed another proclamation declaring the second full week in November as National Elevator Escalator Safety Awareness Week. This is the third year in a row that Governor Ventura has signed the proclamation. Elevator Consulting Services, Inc. was congratulated in the November 2001 issue of the Greater Saint Paul Building Owners and Managers Association newsletter for obtaining the governor's signature.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Gannett Fleming's Vertical Transportation Group assisted the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) with promoting safety awareness in the operation of elevators and escalators. Gannett Fleming's area manager, David Hansen, coordinated the effort through the SEPTA Safety Department.

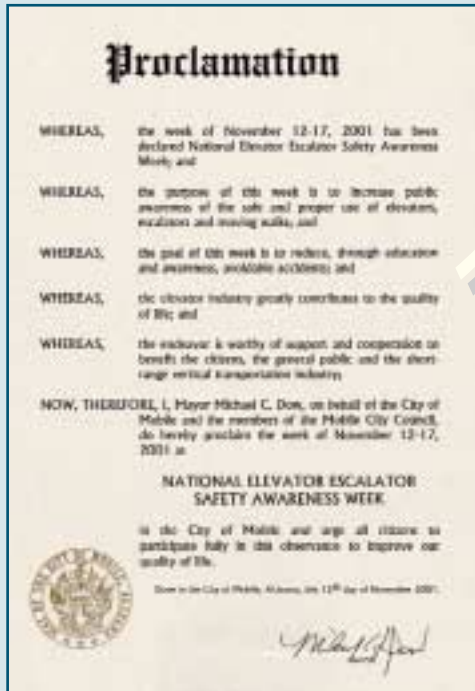
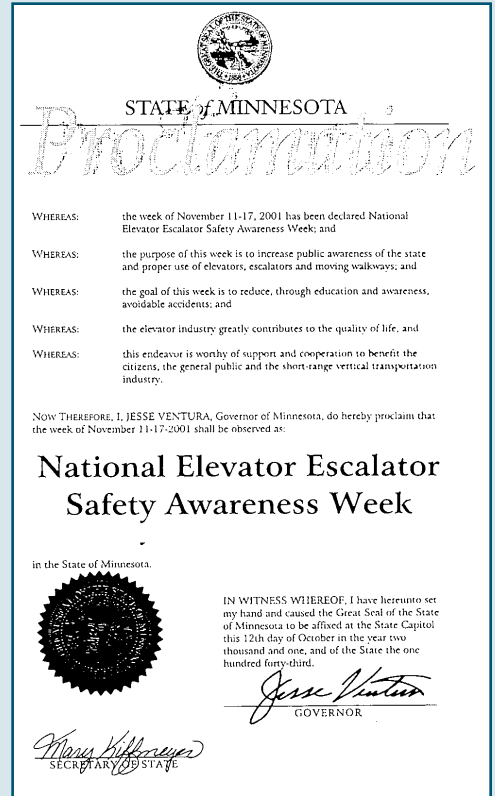
Each day during the week, safety handouts were provided at various stations throughout the transit system. At each location, the EESF video was displayed to the general riding public. In total, more than 5,000 handouts were distributed.

In addition to the station effort, presentations were made to the kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classes of the William Meredith Elementary and McCall Elementary Schools. Each child that participated in the program was given a certificate, coloring book and sticker. The principals of each school showed continued interest in the program and invited us back this year.

**ALABAMA**

The EESF staff also promotes National Safety Week in Mobile and Alabama. Last year and the year before, Mobile Mayor Mike Dow and Alabama Governor Don Siegelman signed proclamations declaring National Elevator Escalator Safety Awareness Week. Both proclamations are displayed at the Foundation headquarters.

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Mayor Mike Dow of Mobile, Alabama

# SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

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## OHIO

Fujitec America, Inc. hosted area second graders on field trips to the company's offices and research tower. Fujitec invited the children to visit the company's Lebanon, Ohio facility, where elevators and escalators sold throughout North America are built, as part of the company's participation in National Safety Week. Fujitec is a founding member of the EESF and Fujitec's president, Tak Uchiyama, serves as the Foundation's Campaign Chairman for the year 2002.

During the children's visits to Fujitec, they were given the opportunity to listen to Fujitec engineers discuss the basics on how elevators, escalators and moving walkways work, as well as learn the primary safety rules for getting on, riding and getting off this equipment. The students were shown an interactive slide presentation and an eight-minute safety video,

*Jim Crotty*



produced by EESF and featuring *Safe-T Rider* – a feline character and

office "spokesperson" for Safety Week. The students were also given small group tours of Fujitec's 15-story research tower, which is one of the most visible buildings in Warren County. Inside the research tower, Fujitec employees, many of whom volunteered to help the students, demonstrated the proper use of an actual working escalator and elevator. Following the demonstrations each second grader had the opportunity to tryout the new safety skills that were learned in the program.



*Demonstration of working escalator*



*Fujitec America President T. Uchiyama and **Safe-T Rider** with second graders*

At the top of the research tower, the students had clear views of Kings Island and Lebanon. After the tower tours, the students took a simple 10-question test concerning the safety rules. Helping the kids take the test was *Safe-T Rider*. Performing as *Safe-T Rider* were Fujitec employees Angela Seitz and Johnny Carson.

After taking their safety test, which everyone passed, each second grader was presented with their personalized certificate of completion, elevator and escalator safety coloring book and a Fujitec balloon and goody bag. Two hundred fifty students from four local schools participated.

"The Fujitec employees have just as much fun as the kids during Safety Week," commented Jim Crotty, Fujitec's Marketing Communications Specialist. "Most of our employees are engineers and technicians, which means it can get pretty quiet around here during a typical work day. Every November, things get a little bit more exciting as we play host to second grade classes from the Lebanon area. When the kids get here, they fill the offices with their energy and enthusiasm. It's contagious and it reenergizes our staff. This is also Fujitec's opportunity to give back to the community. It's pretty neat to see the reaction on the kid's faces when they find out that they get to go up in the tower."

Last year was the only time since the start of Safety Week that Fujitec did not host area second graders. At that time, Fujitec representatives went out to the schools to present the program. "We've found that the kids get much more out of the program when they actually visit our facility and practice what is being preached," added Crotty, who was responsible for organizing the event and contacting the local schools. "This topic was especially important in light of the coming holiday shopping season when most of these kids will be going to the mall and using the elevators



*Thank you notes  
to Fujitec America  
President  
Tak Uchiyama*

and escalators. Many times these kids will go home and remind their parents of important tips that the adults may neglect or forget, such as never taking a baby stroller on an escalator."

The following are just some of the reactions from the Holbrook Elementary students:

Chris "thought it was cool – how the big chains were on the escalator." Kate said it was "very cool and fun." Brittany said, "My favorite part was when we went up the tower." From Ashleh, "I liked the part when we got to go up the escalator. It tickled my tummy a lot. I also liked when we got to the top of the tower. It was all fun. Thank you." Tyler added, "I liked it when we got the gifts and balloons and it was fun!" From Justin, "I liked the tower, because it was high. It was fun!! I had the best time ever."

#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) in partnership with KONE Inc. sponsored their weeklong safety awareness campaign by manning booths at South Station and Haymarket Station on Tuesday, November 13 and at Back Bay and Harvard Stations on Wednesday, November 14.

Each year, this safety program is provided to educate people about key safety practices when using this equipment. Safety events are staged around the U.S. to acknowledge safety accomplishments in the elevator/escalator industry and, more importantly, to reinforce the public's safe riding awareness.

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Fujitec staff

# SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

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"Safety is our number one priority, and it is important for the MBTA to promote public safety so that all commuters are aware of proper safety precautions while riding the system," said Secretary of Transportation and MBTA Chairman Kevin J. Sullivan. "To illustrate our continued support of public safety, we were proud to participate, for the eighth consecutive year, in National Elevator Safety Awareness Week."

Recent escalator improvements along with previous public awareness campaigns have supported reduction in the number of accidents on MBTA escalators. The MBTA has maintained a steady decrease in the number of accidents. Over the past several years, over US\$9 million was invested in improving overall escalator safety and reliability. MBTA escalators are inspected for safe operation far more frequently than industry standards require. When utilized properly and safely, escalators are one of the safest and most efficient modes of transportation.

"The promotion and educating of safety precautions is vital to the well being of our customers," said MBTA General Manager Robert H. Prince Jr. "Our support and participation in a week-long safety awareness campaign clearly supports our commitment to ensuring the safety of our riders."

The MBTA's "Safety First" mission underscored a proactive approach to accident prevention. It focused on identifying safety initiatives designed to resolve potential hazards that pose a risk to passenger safety, thereby preventing accidents and recurrences.

## NEW YORK

This is the New York City Transit's ninth consecutive year to participate in National Safety Week. Accordingly, it is only appropriate that on October 11, 2001, James C. Winek, director of Hazard Assessment, Office of System Safety of the New York City Transit, announced he was presenting the "We're Serious About Safety" award to William Boppert, Kevin Moylan and Staci Williams. The award was presented to these three employees on October 17 at the President's Safety Policy Committee meeting. The nomination was submitted by Gustavo Rivera, director, Office of Employee Support and Safety.

November 13-16, superintendents William Boppert and Kevin Moylan set up a display board and video at various stations throughout the transit system. The presentation informs customers on the proper use of elevators, escalators and moving walks with special emphasis given to children. They handed out coloring books and stickers from the EESF. They also handed



**"WE'RE  
SERIOUS  
ABOUT  
SAFETY"**

(l-r) Moylan, L. Reuter, president NYCTA, Boppert, Williams, E. Albano, chief infrastructure officer, NYCTA

out metro card holders that feature the *Safe-T Rider* program's mascot, safety tips and the Foundation's interactive website where children may watch a video and take a test. The stations designated for this year's presentation were: 53rd and Lexington, 34th Street and Eighth Avenue at Penn Station, Jay Street, Parsons/Archer. Assisting with this effort were NYCTA employees Robert Demarco, Michael Young, Brian Kaegi, Benny Trisconi and Tony Rivis.

In addition to these sites, the Elevator Conference of New York is attempting to acquire a location where they may setup at NBC studios and get coverage on NBC's Today Show for the 2002 celebration.

### MICHIGAN

Calvin Rogler, chief, Elevator Safety Division, led the effort in Lansing, Michigan. "Safety should be a concern for everyone, and we should take every opportunity to make sure that our safety concerns are shared with our children," Rogler said. "Senior citizens, that may suffer from poor eyesight, frail bodies, slow reactions and other afflictions, also need to be made aware of safety concerns when using these devices." In an effort to help spread the message, Rogler approached the governor for a proclamation.

Governor John Engler issued an executive declaration in observance of Safety Week to educate parents, senior citizens and other consumers about safety tips to prevent avoidable incidents and accidents.

"The state of Michigan has nearly 26,000 elevators and escalators and every year we receive reports of incidents and accidents that may have been avoided if consumers followed common sense safety tips,"

said Kathy Wilbur, director of Consumer & Industry Services (CIS). "Children are considered the most at risk of being injured, so parents should recognize the importance of preventing children from riding elevators and escalators unattended and also to not use strollers on escalators."

CIS' Bureau of Construction Codes Elevator Safety Division and Elevator Safety Board is responsible for the state's elevator, escalator, and dumbwaiter inspections; complaint investigations; reporting of elevator accidents; and issuing elevator contractor licenses.

Wilbur said many of the most serious injuries reported for elevators and escalators are due to falls, particularly involving riders over the age of 65 years old. She said falls and other accidents may be avoided by following the safety instructions provided by the EESF.

The EESF would like to thank all of those who continue to support the program as well as those who make a special effort to celebrate National Safety Awareness Week.



## PAST AND FUTURE NATIONAL ELEVATOR ESCALATOR SAFETY AWARENESS WEEKS

*November 6-12, 1994*

*November 8-14, 1998*

*November 5-11, 1995*

*November 14-20, 1999*

*November 10-16, 1996*

*November 12-18, 2000*

*November 6-12, 1997*

*November 12-17, 2001*

### **November 16-22, 2002**

*Be a part of keeping your community safe – start planning to celebrate this year's Safety Awareness Week now.*

Contact EESF at phone (251) 479-2199 or e-mail: [info@eesf.org](mailto:info@eesf.org)

