

MISSOURI

Officials Investigate Roller Coaster Crash

Branson — The Firestorm roller coaster ride at the Branson USA amusement park was not operating Sunday after a collision Saturday night in which seven people suffered minor injuries.

Inspectors from the State Division of Fire Safety, which is in charge of amusement ride safety, checked the roller coaster, but could not determine what was wrong Sunday.

Amusement park manager Wayne Leatherman said the ride would remain closed until a satisfactory explanation for the accident was found.

The ride has two trains of three cars each, and apparently the brakes on one of them failed as it was coming into the loading area.

"For some reason, either one or some of the brakes did not set up properly, and did not get the car slowed down as slow as it should have been," said Leatherman. "It came on around and bumped into the back of the train sitting in the loading dock."

The seven people were treated at Skaggs Hospital in Branson and released. — AP

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