Access to Experts

Greg Hale , Vice President and Chief Safety Officer , Walt Disney Parks and Resorts

Greg Hale is the Chief Safety Officer and Vice President of Worldwide Safety and Accessibility for Disney Parks and Resorts. He leads a global team of ride design, operations, maintenance, and safety professionals around the world that keep Disney on the leading edge of theme park safety, accessibility for guests with disabilities, and technology advancements.

Greg received his BSEE from the University of Mississippi in 1976 and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Florida. In 1988, Greg joined Walt Disney World Co. and has held several key positions including Director of Facilities and Attractions Regulatory Compliance and Director of Ride & Show Engineering. Prior to his present position, he was Vice President of Design & Engineering and Regulatory Compliance.

Greg pro-actively participates in national standards committees and has been recognized for his work on accessibility standards for persons with disabilities and for amusement ride safety standards and training. He is on the Executive Committee of the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) Amusement Ride Safety Standards Committee. Greg is a member of AIMS Educational Advisory Board (Amusement Industry Manufacturers & Suppliers International). He is a member of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers). Greg is past Chairman of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Safety and Maintenance Committee and Chairman of IAAPA International Standards Harmonization Committee. He has served as an IAAPA Board of Directors member and has held the position of co-chair of IAAPA's Strategic Planning Program Committee. Greg received IAAPA's Public Affairs Award in recognition for his leadership on critical safety issues for the amusement industry. Greg is on the Board of Directors, on the Board of Delegates, and is Vice President for the Community Safety Division for National Safety Council (NSC). He is co-chairman of the Host Committee for the 2009 NSC Congress and Expo in Orlando, FL. Greg received NSC's Distinguished Service to Safety Award. This award is the highest honor bestowed on an individual safety professional by the NSC in recognition of outstanding service in the field of safety.

Greg has served on the Dean's Executive Advisory Board for the University of Central Florida, College of Engineering and Computer Science. Greg served on the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board's Recreation Access Advisory Committee, and he is responsible for numerous innovations and inventions that have advanced accessibility for persons with disabilities. The most recent of which is handheld captioning that for the first time, provides captioning for the deaf on moving rides and attractions. In addition, he is a co-inventor and patent holder for Disney's FASTPASS®, eliminating long lines at Disney theme park rides and attractions.

Greg is an enthusiastic supporter of the FIRST Program (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). He serves on the FIRST Executive Advisory Board. This program brings students and engineers together to compete in head-to-head science and technology robotics competition. FIRST reaches thousands of students each year to interest and inspire the nation's youth in science, math, and technology.

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