

Marcelo Torres, 22, died yesterday, Oct. 31, from a rollercoaster accident at approximately 11:20 a.m. on Disneyland's Big Thunder Mountain Railroad in Anaheim, Cali.

Torres' chest was crushed and suffered head injuries when the lead car of the locomotive detached which caused it to derail.

Public relations representative, Richard Chang, who represents Disneyland and the Disney Resort further details a wheel fell off the train due to a safety wire that was not properly installed.

The accident caused the death of Torres and injured 10 other people. Some injuries were minor which were treated at the scene and other severe injuries were treated at UC Irvine Medical Center in Orange. Further details about other injuries and the victims' names are not available.

The well-known ride averages at about 23 miles per hour, lasting 3 minutes and 15 seconds with five cars for each train in place.

Rebecca Campbell, president of the Disneyland Resort states, "We are shocked and saddened by this...Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of the victim and all the people who were injured."

The park was not closed yesterday during or after the accident.

After this unfortunate accident, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad has been closed indefinitely until further details have been completed.

An investigation has begun by Anaheim police and the state's Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

"For the last 65 years, the safety and well-being of our theme park, our guests and our employees has been and continues to be our top priority," said Bob Chapek, the chief executive officer of Walt Disney Co. at a meeting at Disneyland's Park to show empathy to the victims' families.

Chang details Disneyland has made the attempt to check the rides daily to ensure the safety of the audience and customers.

"Safety is of utmost concern to us. We check and clean all rides, attractions, gathering places, restaurants, bathrooms and stores multiple times daily," states Chang.

Since 1998 only one person has died from a ride accident at Disneyland. In 2003, 116 people filed for injuries that required for more than just first aid.

Despite the accident, Disneyland will continue to remain open to the public. Disneyland invites all individuals and families to celebrate during the holidays. The entire resort and parks will be ornamented with holiday and Christmas décor from Nov. 12 to Jan. 9.