

Coasters

Every day, we put ourselves at risk. We pilot two thousand pound steel death-traps at upwards of sixty miles per hour on a regular basis with nothing but a thin strip of fabric and an airbag to protect us, live comfortably with the fact that thousands of volts of electricity are constantly surging through our homes, and even access this electricity by literally prodding it with other metal without even flinching. But why do we trust ourselves so wholeheartedly with these potentially deadly forces? In short, we rely on the expertise of the engineers who designed these devices and their ability to prevent harm from coming to us. Roller coasters are no different in this respect, and therefore should be treated as such.

See, in the grand scheme of things, roller coasters are really not as much of a stretch as some would initially suspect. They don't exactly utilize experimental technologies that have not been tested before. All of that stuff is used on things like the International Space Station, smart phones, and micro-incision surgeries. Instead, coasters are built using the cutting edge in tried, proven, and reliable technology such as tempered steel, the physics of uniform circular motion, and WD-40.

And granted, in the earlier part of the twentieth century, roller coasters were very dangerous. People were killed quite regularly in them in fact. But this is a new age, and to the delight of life insurance companies, the government has cracked down on letting people be killed by negligence and fundamental design flaws.

In short, we should trust roller coasters in the same way that we trust our cars and our cell phones. If anything, we should trust coasters more because the technology used to build them is much simpler and sturdier than, say, that of the latest Smart Car design.