

= Disaster Transport =

Disaster Transport (formerly Avalanche Run) was an enclosed steel bobsled roller coaster built by Intamin at Cedar Point in Sandusky , Ohio , United States . It was notable as being the only indoor roller coaster at Cedar Point and the only bobsled roller coaster in the midwest at its debut . The name of the ride stems from " Dispatch Master Transport " . The origin of the name could still be seen in the ride 's logo in its later years . Before the ride was enclosed , the supports and outer sides of the track were painted blue .

= History =

Disaster Transport originally opened on May 11 , 1985 as Avalanche Run and was entirely outdoors . It was built next to the beach , on the former spot of Jumbo Jet and later , WildCat . Many other rides also had to be relocated . The original ride cost \$ 3 @. @ 4 million : \$ 1 @. @ 9 million to manufacture and \$ 1 @. @ 5 million to install .

= Renovation =

In 1990 , ITEC Productions , Inc. was chosen to renovate the ride , completely enclosing it in a show building . The renovation included the addition of a space @-@ themed queue and ride along with special effect lighting and sound . The special effects and construction cost approximately \$ 4 million . On the outside of the building , " 12 E " was written , which had caused numerous rumors as to its meanings . On August 3 , 2005 , it was revealed that it stood for the 12th ride designed by the ITEC employee , Eric .

Not long after the initial changes to the ride in 1990 , the special effects were not maintained and began to deteriorate . Most of the effects at its closure , were not active , or had been covered up . Blacklight reactant paint lined the walls , mostly in the form of handprints or outlines of scenes . These gave a 3 @-@ D appearance when the rider wore special glasses purchased at the beginning of the queue .

= Closure =

On July 13 , 2012 , Cedar Point announced that Disaster Transport would close on July 29 , 2012 . It was the second roller coaster at Cedar Point to close in 2012 . A charity auction was held for the final riders , benefiting the Give Kids the World charity foundation . The last ride was given at 11 : 53 PM on July 29 , with the lights turned on . The ride started demolition on August 6 , using about 380 trucks to transport scrap materials . A portion of track , two cars and the main entrance sign will be donated to the National Roller Coaster Museum . Less than a month later on August 29 at around 9 : 30 AM , the last section of Disaster Transport was demolished . The 12E part of the building was the last section left standing .

= Ride experience =

Disaster Transport was a bobsled roller coaster , meaning the wheels were not attached to a track as on a conventional roller coaster . The cars ? resembling bobsleds ? operated within a steel trough , on which they were allowed to operate freely . This allowed the ride to swing from side to side when turning sharp corners , as an actual bobsled would . Guests would enter 10 passenger bobsleds , secured by a lap bar . After leaving the " launch area " , the bobsled traveled up the 63 @-@ foot @-@ tall (19 m) lift hill at a 15 @-@ degree @-@ angle , which featured red and blue blinking lights on the sides . After reaching the top of the lift hill , it curved to the right , dropping 50 feet (15 m) at a 27 @-@ degree @-@ angle and reaching a top speed of 40 mph (64 km / h) . After that , it curved to the left into a mid course brake run . After the mid course brake run , the bobsled turned left followed by several banked turns and curves and two more brake runs . One

cycle of the ride lasted about 2 minutes and 32 seconds .

= = = Theme = = =

After the ride was renovated in 1990 , a new space theme was given . The story of the ride was the passengers had been to deliver cargo from a suborbital factory to a station in Alaska . Large screen projections , simulated lasers , mist , and recordings were added to the ride . In the queue , guests would go through three rooms including Rocket Recovery , Mission Control and Repair Bay . The original entrance to the ride was located next to Troika . During HalloWeekends , the park would change the entrance of Disaster Transport to under the lift hill , leaving the one next to Troika to be used for the Halloween Haunt . For the 2009 season , the entrance was permanently changed to under the lift hill . When the entrance was changed , the Rocket Recovery and Mission Control rooms were closed , leaving the Repair Bay the only room guests walked through .

= = Building = =

The building was also used as a storage facility for the park . During HalloWeekends , much of the original queue area was used to house a haunt attraction . It was first used in 1997 for the haunt , Cedar Point Cemetery . In 2000 , it was transformed into the Egyptian themed , Pharaoh 's Secret haunted house . In 2009 , it was transformed into Happy Jack 's Toy Factory , a haunted toy factory .

The ride , though indoors , would close in any type of rain . Because of leaks in the structure , water pooled in the trough , warranting a shutdown . Typically , the ride would remain shut down after a period of rain as the crew would have to cycle several trains through the circuit in order for it to dry . Although the ride was enclosed , the storage track remained outdoors with a large door that opened when the storage track was needed .