

Safety chief concern during safe Labor Day parade

Craig Shoup, Reporter Published 11:48 a.m. ET Sept. 4, 2017 | Updated 4:52 p.m. ET Sept. 4, 2017



FREMONT - After a tragic crash during the July 4 parade, enhanced inspection and safety were chief concerns heading into the annual Labor Day parade in Fremont.

With safety at the forefront, and an alternate parade route that sent all 38 floats and groups down Front Street, the Labor Day parade went without incident in front of hundreds of spectators.

"I think it went really good," International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8 business agent Steve Brown said. "We inspected everything and made sure everything was safe before the parade."

Brown said the IBEW Local 8 is in charge of the annual Labor Day parade, and said the parade route has always run through Front Street.



Tammy Jones and son Billy Jones wait for candy to be thrown by parade participants. Billy said running out to the street to pick up candy was his favorite parade tradition. (Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)

Each parade, organized by different groups, is different, Brown said, with some parades, like the July 4 parade, beginning on Croghan Street before turning onto Front Street.

"Every parade organizer is different, we think this route works out best for us," Brown said.



Parade attendees also practice safety, though for Tammy Jones, she said she wanted her three children to be safe, but have fun running out and getting candy thrown by parade participants.

"I wasn't really concerned about what happened July 4," Jones said. "It was a fluke accident."

After the July 4 crash, which injured five, Fremont Fire Chief Dave Foos said city officials and public safety services would meet to discuss future safety measures in parades.

Foos said he is uneasy about children running out into roadways to retrieve thrown candy, saying it might be easier for parade participants to pass candy out, rather than throwing it on the ground.

As parade participants and floats traveled along Front Street, throwing handfuls of candy, Jones said she monitors her children to make sure they are not running out into the parade route in front of moving vehicles.



St. Joseph Central Catholic Marching Band plays along Front Street during the Labor Day parade. (Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)

"I think it is up to the parents to watch what their kids are doing and make sure they are not running out in front of vehicles," Jones said. "I let my kids go out to the road, but I make sure vehicles have passed before they do it, because the candy isn't going anywhere."

As the parade traveled through the downtown, several local unions were represented with banners and local workers.



Union workers representing the bricklaying, electrical and steel working sector walked in the annual Labor Day parade in Fremont. (Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)

Mike Anderson of Fremont enjoyed his first parade as a participant with the local bricklayers union, saying it was an honor to walk in the parade.

"This is a special day for union workers," Anderson said. "This day is all about supporting the local brotherhood."

Labor Day has been a tradition in the United States dating back to the 1800s as workers banded together to ensure safer more regulated working conditions.

Although Labor Day often means a day off from school and several business closures, Brown said he hopes people will understand the meaning behind the day.

"It's an important day, and I hope kids understand what it means," Brown said.

cshoup@gannett.com

419-334-1035

Twitter: @CraigShoupNH



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8 leads parade of union groups during Labor Day festivities in Fremont. (Photo: Craig Shoup/The News-Messenger)