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Kings Island fountain spits 10,000 gallons!

Original park attraction remains one of nation's largest animated fountains

KINGS ISLAND, Ohio – Ever wonder how it would look to spray 10,000 gallons of water into the air?

Probably not, but to officials at Kings Island, spraying water into the air is a major project. The fountain was constructed when the park was being built in 1971 and remains one of the nation's largest animated fountains, shooting more than 10,000 gallons of water into the air at any time.

Crowned by the Eiffel Tower, the fountain highlights the park's International Street. The fountain is longer than a football field and holds more than 50,000 gallons of water. Four high capacity pumps force the water through 5,000 feet of pipe and out through more than 100 specially designed jets and into the air.

The fountain is an animated fountain because the water formations and lightning conditions change according to a predetermined pattern. A series of pegs are located on a rotating drum and as the drum turns, a number of switches are activated which cause the water formations and lighting conditions to be altered. It takes approximately 10 minutes to see the 14 water and 33 lighting sequences.

At night, the fountain provides a spectacular sight as the multicolored underwater lights illuminate the cascading water and the surrounding pool. More than three miles of wire connect the underwater lights.

In an effort to help eliminate water from splashing on walkways surrounding the fountain, the park installed an anemometer atop a nearby building to measure the wind velocity. As the wind rises, the height of the water columns is decreased in stages.

To create an illusion of depth in the fountain, about 150 gallons of blue paint covers the basin. The fountain is actually just a little more than two feet deep.

Between Kings Island and the Fountain Specialists Co. of Milford, Ohio, two-and-a-half years of planning and design went into the \$400,000 fountain. Imagine what it would cost today!

Kings Island is owned and operated by Cedar Fair Entertainment Company, a publicly traded partnership that is listed for trading on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "FUN." In addition to Kings Island, Cedar Fair owns and operates ten other amusement parks, six water parks, one indoor water park resort and five hotels. Cedar Fair also operates the Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park in Gilroy, Calif. under a management contract.

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