

THEATRE SAFETY

Most accidents can be avoided by replacing unsafe habits with safe practices. The main causes of accidents are:

- Insufficient knowledge
- Improper use of tools and facilities
- Failure to safeguard hazardous equipment
- Failure to report faulty equipment
- Carelessness
- Taking unnecessary risks
- Not speaking up when you perceive a potential danger
- BEING IN A HURRY

GENERAL SAFETY REGULATIONS

- Running, practical jokes, throwing tools or materials, or any other dangerous activity is not permitted.
- The shop, stage house, or other work area must be cleaned and left in a safe condition. All tools should be returned, floors cleaned, trash emptied, and walkways and exits left clear and unobstructed. In short, any potential safety or fire hazard must be eliminated.
- Any accident should be reported immediately to the supervising teacher so that first aid and/or medical attention can be administered without delay.

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Hard sole shoes should be worn while working in the scene shop. Tennis shoes are not desirable; sandals and bare feet are not permitted.
- Loose fitting clothing, scarves, ties, or jewelry should not be worn while using power equipment. Long hair should be tied back or covered. Long sleeve shirts should be either buttoned at the cuffs or rolled to the upper arm.
- Goggles, face shields, or safety glasses -- all rated for impact -- must be worn while using power tools and equipment.
- Wear special work clothes that can be removed after work. Wash clothes frequently and separately from regular clothing.
- Wash hands in soap and water during work breaks, before eating, and after work. Never use solvents to clean hands.

FIRE PROTECTION

- Exits and access to exits must be kept clear and unobstructed at all times. During periods of occupancy, no exit door should be locked, chained, or obstructed by any means. The door must be readily opened from the inside.
- Flammable materials such as oil-based paints, thinners, and spray cans should be stored in the special flammable materials storage cabinets. Learn the difference between flammable and non flammable paints, etc.

- Electric light bulbs must not be covered or decorated with paper or other combustible material.

TOOLS AND MACHINERY

- Keep the work area free of clutter.
- Before operating machinery or power tools for the first time, be checked out on proper operation procedures by the supervising teacher.
- Dress properly (see above).
- Use safety eye or face protection.
- Do not use any defective or questionable electrical tool, machine, cord, connection, or accessory. Report any defects for repair or replacement immediately.
- Select the proper tool for the job to be done. Don't improvise. Ask if unsure.
- All saws should be adjusted before use to expose only the minimum amount of blade necessary. The fingers and hands must be kept clear of the blade at all times.
- Use clamps or a vise to hold work in place when practical, freeing both hands to operate the tool.
- Avoid accidental startup. Make sure the switch is "off" before plugging in the cord or when power is interrupted. Never carry a power tool with your finger on the switch.
- Remove adjusting keys and wrenches before turning on a tool or machine.
- Do not force tools
- Do not over-reach. Maintain proper footing, balance, and a secure grip on the tool you are using.
- Never adjust or change bits, blades, or belts with the power tool or machine conned to its power source.
- Never brush away chips or sawdust while tools or machines are operating.
- Never leave tools or equipment running unattended. Disconnect equipment from the power source when not in use.

RIGGING

- Only authorized and trained personnel are permitted to work with the rigging equipment and to enter the grid area above the stage.
- Proper work gloves must be work when handling the purchase lines on a counterweight system.
- When a scenic piece is coming in, or when an arbor is being loaded or unloaded, there should be complete silence on stage.
- The technical director or crew head should be the only person to call instructions to the grid crew. The director should inform both the grid and the stage crew before a batten or piece is pulled in or out.
- The correct call to warn of a batten, scenery, or line coming in under control is "Heads up!" The emergency call for falling objects is to yell, "Clear the stage!"

- Pockets should be emptied before going on to the grid. Tools brought onto the grid must be tied or secured to the worker.
- Tools or hardware must never be left loose on the grid.
- Any discovered irregularities in cable, rope, or the counterweight system should be reported immediately to the supervising teacher
- Before loading or unloading an arbor, the grid worker must call out, "Clear the rail!" This call is a warning that everyone must clear the area of the stage adjacent to the locking rail. When this area is clear, someone on stage must call out, "Rail clear!" Only after this has been done should the grid worker begin loading or unloading the arbor. It is then the responsibility of the stage worker who gave the "Rail clear" call to keep the rail area vacant.
- When loading or unloading is complete, the grid worker should call out, "Rail is safe!" This call should be acknowledged from the stage.
- Except for the actual moment of flying, every counterweight set should be kept locked off with the locking rings in place.

LIGHTING

- Only authorized and trained personnel are permitted to work with lighting circuitry, dimmers, and instruments.
- Any electrical or mechanical defect or irregularity must be reported to the supervising teacher for correction. No repair of faulty equipment or instruments should be undertaken unless the supervisor has been consulted and approved corrective repair or maintenance.
- Even when disconnected, some electrical equipment can cause shocks. Never remove the cover of a device without assessing the potential danger.
- Food or beverages are not allowed in the light control area.

STAGE MAKE-UP

- Never lend or accept make-up from anyone.
- Wash hands before and after applying make-up. Make-up artists should wash their hands before starting on another actor.
- Sponges and brushes should be washed after use on each individual.
- Avoid aerosol products whenever possible.
- Replace old makeup regularly.
- Avoid creating clouds of face powder that can be inhaled. Do not use old face powder.
- Moisten brushes or pencils with clean tap water, not with saliva.
- When removing spirit gum or latex, avoid prolonged skin contact with solvents. Replace lost skin oils with moisturizer.