

INTRODUCTION

Whether it is for television, film, theatre, or live events, all productions have a legal obligation to minimize or eliminate exposure to hazards. However, while safety may be a responsibility delegated to certain individuals of the production company, it does not absolve you from being responsible for your own safety and the safety of those you are working with. In this lesson, we will cover cast and crew safety responsibilities, production safety procedures and policies, safety meetings and/or briefings, the hazards that may be present in the entertainment industry, the use of personal protective equipment, and emergency policies and procedures.



CAST AND CREW SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

No matter your department or position on the production, you play a role in keeping yourself and others safe while on the job. These personal responsibilities include many things, such as:

- Making sure walkways are kept clear of debris and obstacles
- Becoming familiar with your surroundings
- Reporting hazards to the appropriate departments or personnel
- Following safe work practices
- Refraining from being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while on the job
 - If you are on prescription medications that could affect your judgement or ability to operate tools and equipment safely, you should notify and speak with your supervisor or designated personnel.
- Keeping open lines of communication with your coworkers and supervisors
- Reporting injuries, whether you consider them to be minor or major
- Respecting safety barriers by staying out of restricted areas
- Only handling or working with equipment that you have permission or authorization for
- Wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment for your work task

PRODUCTION SAFETY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

To help keep you and others safe while on the production, production companies create and implement safety procedures and policies for your particular production. It is important that you read and familiarize yourself with these procedures and policies. If you have questions regarding a specific procedure or policy, you should speak with either your supervisor or designated contact.

SAFETY MEETINGS/BRIEFINGS

In addition to safety procedures and policies, production companies and individual departments will hold safety meetings and/or briefings to inform and/or train you and your coworkers on the hazards that you may be exposed to for your job task. These meetings or briefings may be scheduled or brought up as the day progresses as new hazards are brought to the attention of the cast and crew.

You should attend all scheduled safety meetings, rehearsals, and where feasible, all impromptu safety briefings.

Additionally, these meetings and/or briefings can be places where you can bring hazards that you have noticed to the attention of others.

HAZARDS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

Regardless of the production, there are many different types of hazards that may be present. The hazards that you are exposed to during the production can range due to the department or part that you are performing within the production.

Hazards can include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Accidents or injuries when performing stunts, handling weapons or props, or horseplay
- Exposure to chemicals
- Cuts, lacerations, and/or eye injuries from using hand and power tools and equipment
- Slips, trips, or falls from slippery or wet conditions, cables that are on the floor, ascending and descending elevated areas, etc.
- Allergic reactions to makeup
- Exposure to inclement weather conditions
- Exposure to domestic and exotic animals
- Fatigue from regular job duties and work hours
- Electric shock or electrocution from making contact with live electrical components
- Burns from making contact with heated surfaces and components
- Hearing loss or damage from exposure to loud environments, tools, and equipment
- Fires or explosions from special effects and pyrotechnics



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Depending on the work task that you are performing for the production, you may be required to wear certain types of personal protective equipment (PPE) to help minimize the chances of you being injured. When you are provided with PPE, you should do the following:

- Inspect the PPE for wear or damage.
- Turn in damaged or worn items to designated personnel so they can be replaced.
- Make sure that the PPE is fitting properly.
- Maintain and store PPE in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the production's policies and procedures.

EMERGENCY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Even with the best scouting and pre-planning, things on a production location and set can go wrong. To help you be prepared for such situations, you should become familiar with the production's policies and procedures and Emergency Action Plan. The Emergency Action Plan typically covers things like building evacuations, natural disasters, medical emergencies, and so on.

Additionally, you should familiarize yourself with the locations of all emergency exits located at the production location or set. If you have questions regarding exit locations, the Emergency Action Plan, or a policy or procedure, please speak with your supervisor or designated contact.



ENTERTAINMENT: EMPLOYEE SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

CONCLUSION

To conclude, while production companies have legal obligations to help assure the safety and health of everyone on the cast and crew, that does not mean that you are not responsible for your own safety and health and that of your coworkers. To help make sure that you are keeping yourself and your coworkers safe and healthy while on the production, you should read and become familiar with the production's safety policies and procedures, and attend all rehearsals, safety trainings, and safety briefings.

Remember that rehearsals and safety meetings can be areas where you can bring items of concern and help in the creation of solutions to those concerns. Additionally, you should report hazardous conditions to your supervisor or designated contact. If you have any questions regarding anything safety or health related while on production, please speak with your supervisor or designated contact.

