

UTP Productions, PO Box 3778, Salt Lake City, UT 84110
E-mail Connor@utpgroup.com Phone number 801-209-9193

Enhancing Situational Awareness in Foot Injury Risk Environments

Greetings everyone, Ladd here:

In addition to UTP's occupation with the adoption of steel toe footwear, this article is to remind influencers and employees that Situational Awareness (SA) plays an essential role in preventing injuries generally and in these specific conditions.

Note: Ensuring UTP employees are protected with compliant footwear is UTP's top priority. Steeply discounted steel toe shoes can be purchased directly from the manufacturer at:

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Foot injuries more often occur during load-in and load-out conditions, when employees are moving wheeled freight containers between the performance area and waiting trucks. In these environments. It's in this context that SA means consciously managing the wheeled container you are controlling while anticipating and avoiding collisions with other freight or individuals in these dynamic environments.

Less experienced crew members are most at risk for causing and being affected by rolled over foot injury collisions. They are least likely to be wearing steel toe shoes and likely less attentive about keeping themselves and their feet out of harm's way. It's imperative that job box safety meetings at least remind everyone to only engage rolling freight from the rear or sides of the object's direction of travel, while maintaining at least 6 feet between the object they are pushing and the person ahead. More suggestions for safely managing rolling freight are available in previous Safety Spot submissions.

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Job-box safety meetings should advise all to be mindful when exposed to routine loading dock conditions:

1. Exposure to unprotected loading dock and trailer door thresholds
2. Inclined trailer-to-dock tripping hazards
3. Working in close proximity to forklifts, and
4. The loadout activity of racing wheeled freight up inclined loading ramps—all the above mean heightened risk.

Individuals who notice are required to let the steward know about inherent foot injury hazards that require attention by facility management for a solution. A recent UTP Rep's "red flagging" a warped and unstable dock plate and insisting on its replacement is a recent example.

SA is a Skillset in progress that stagehands can sharpen in several ways:

1. **Training and Education:** Ask your IATSE Local admin to contact the greater IA about scheduling an **OSHA 10/General Entertainment Workshop**. By attending and completing the workshop can mean a more informed and versatile SA skillset. Reviewing the relevant workbook topics often.
2. **Real Time Reminders:** Put a paperclip on the thumb-side cuff of your glove (or similar idea) to remind you to realize an awareness moment when you notice it. If the reminder becomes too familiar, change it out for something similar. If a fellow worker asks Why the paperclip? By all means tell them!
3. **Meditation:** For those who wonder what the Awareness part of SA is about, the Waking Up phone app (Apple Store) includes a continuum of daily, 10minute- long and well directed sessions that can train students to experience and access the skillset any time.

On the Job and Daily Practice Tips whereby senior stagehands can boost their own SA ability, and those who are less familiar can use them to start developing their own.

1. **Get Enough Sleep:** get up early enough to enjoy a light breakfast and (several cups?) of coffee!
2. **Arrive early enough** to allow a few moments to reflect at the jobsite with safety in mind. Start the job determined to have a safety-conscious day.
3. **Remain Alert and Observant:** Stay "real time vigilant" about identifying potential rolled-over foot potentials. Also remain aware of previously identified trip and fall hazards around all work areas.
4. **Minimize Distractions:** Avoid using personal devices or engaging in unrelated conversations while on the job.
5. **Continuous Risk Assessment:** Develop the habit of continuously evaluating the environment for hazards. Encourage everyone to do the same.
6. **Clear and Efficient Communication:** Clear and concise communication is essential. Establish cues and signals with your crew members to convey instructions and warnings effectively.
7. **Understanding the Big Picture:** This is the comprehensive component of SA. Recognize how your role fits into the broader production, and how your SA skillset be adapted to any workplace setting with the right information.

Conclusion: Situational awareness is not just a buzzword but a fundamental element of safety in the world of stagehands. By developing and enhancing these skills you ensure the protection yourself and others, and take your part in making backstage employment a safe and rewarding career.

UTP Group's Updated Website

Greetings everyone, Connor here:

UTP Group, Inc. has recently made several updates to our website, www.utpgroup.com, and we wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the changes. We encourage everyone to take a moment and visit the site and familiarize yourself with the information now at your fingertips!

Forms and Reports – While not directly safety related, we have added several new forms to our list that are available to be completed online. If needed employees can be directed to complete much of their paperwork online now. An email was previously sent about these changes to all business agents as well.

As always please verify with our office that everything has been completed properly so that we can ensure our stagehands get paid. Completing new hire paperwork in a timely manner leads to less turnover and therefore we all get more experienced stagehands who make less safety related mistakes!

Incident Reports – Incident checklist: We include a printable accident checklist in case you lose the copy that is also included in each safety spot. This six-step checklist can guide stewards through every step from initial response, proper reporting, and getting employees medical treatment in a timely manner.

Notifying UTP immediately ensures that stagehands are receiving proper care, and if necessary proper OSHA reporting of incidents which can require notification in as short as 8 hours in certain instances.

Accident Reports: All UTP Group accident reports are available online here as well. When completed through our website they get automatically sent to our office saving you and the employee the hassle of printing, writing out by hand, and then scanning back copies of accident reports. Since being implemented this has been shown to speed up accident reporting time significantly so we highly encourage all stewards to use this feature!

New Hire Safety Certification – We encourage all new hires to look over and sign off on the New Hire Safety Checklist. It is an excellent introduction to some of the common safety related issues stagehands will encounter while on the job.

We encourage all employees to take a moment and review the Site Safety Training as it contains useful information and reminders for keeping safe while at work.

Personal Protective Equipment – We have links to our Skechers discount program here as well as links to gloves, vests, and hard hats if employees want to purchase their own.

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UTP Productions Accident Checklist



- Provide first aid** if a trained person is available.
- If the injury is life threatening, then please call 911. **Otherwise, call UTP's office during business hours (801) 328-1298 M-F. Or call our dedicated injury hotline at (801) 209-9193 after hours and on weekends. You will be guided through the process.** If there is no answer, please leave a detailed message of the injury. Please provide contact information including a phone number so we can return your call as soon as possible.
- The employee, supervisor and witnesses must fill out the necessary reports.** This can be accomplished at utpgroup.com for your easiest solution. The forms may also be printed and either emailed or faxed to us. This includes incidents that may not require immediate medical attention. **All reports must be received within 24 hours of the incident.**
- Investigate the accident scene – provide detailed description of accident and equipment involved. Pictures may also be taken with a cell phone and sent via text message to (801)209-9193.**
- Any accidents/incidents that involve death, amputation, loss of an eye or inpatient hospitalization require that the scene be preserved per OSHA requirements!**
- Other important contact information:
UTP Productions Phone: 801 328-1298
Fax: 801-328-1307
email: workcomp@utpgroup.com

SAFETY SPOT

A Tale of Our Accidents

The following is a list of incidents and accidents that have occurred in the last quarter.

Alabama: #1- While putting lights away the employee pinched their fingers between the light and the lighting case. This led to bruising and swelling but they did avoid a fracture.

Arizona: #1- While working outside on the loading dock wind picked up a tarp that had been left on the ground which blew into and tripped an employee. The employee fell hitting their knees and the chest into a nearby dumpster.

California: #1- While working as a team to move a rack that had a light truss on it the truss fell off the rack onto the employee's hand pinching his hand. This led to bruising and swelling but they did avoid fracturing their hand.

Florida: #1- Employee suffered from dehydration and heat exhaustion while working at an outdoor event.

Florida: #2- While performing a team lift with other employees of a heavy audio and lighting truss onto a stack the employee felt a sudden pinching sensation in their right arm. The employee had strained their triceps and bicep from overexertion.

Florida: #3- While unloading trucks an employee bent over to lift some heavy boxes. They felt a sudden discomfort and a growing pain in his abdomen. This pain continued to get worse, and the employee sought medical attention which indicated they had suffered a hernia.

Georgia: #1- Employee was trying to open dumpster lids from on top of the trash platform. The employee missed his step while stepping between the dumpsters and fell to the ground. The resulting fall and ground impact caused the employee to strain their knee.

Iowa: #1- Employee was working to unload a cart from the truck when the wheel of the cart ran over their right foot. This crushed their toes causing bruising and swelling but no fracture.

Nevada: #1- While using a cart to move rolls of Marley the employee tried to reposition the roll and it fell off the cart onto the employee's foot. This fractured one of the employee's toes.

Oregon: #1- While unloading an audio console with another crew member off the deck onto the stage floor the console was heavier than expected and needed more than two crew members to lift. One of the employees strained their knee while setting the console down.

SAFETY SPOT

A Tale of Our Accidents- Continued

The following is a list of incidents and accidents that have occurred in the last quarter.

Texas: #1- While moving electrical equipment throughout his shift the employee developed a strain in his right ankle from overexertion.

Utah: #1- Employee was working as a team to move a large cart from the truck when the wheel of the cart ran over their left foot. This crushed their toes causing bruising and swelling but no fracture.

Utah: #2- While cutting up carpet pads employee slipped and cut his right hand with a carpet knife. The cut required getting stitches.

Utah: #3- While working to build an attic with crossbeams to load more freight into a trailer one of the crossbeams came loose and fell hitting employee on the top of their head. This caused bruising and pain but no concussion.

Utah: #4- While working to repair curtains an employee reached for their sewing gear and accidentally tipped and fell out of their chair causing a strain to the left knee from the fall.

Utah: #5- While moving heavy plexiglass covers the weight of the cover shifted forward and the sudden change in direction strained the employee's left wrist.

Washington: #1- While unloading boxes from a truck onto the loading dock the employee accidentally stepped into the open gap between the truck and loading dock. This caused a laceration to the upper right thigh and a strain to their right knee.

Washington: #2- While walking along a backstage pathway the employee fell off the edge of the pathway and fell to their knee and wrist. This caused a strain to the wrist.

Washington: #3- While performing a team lift of an umbrella stand the employees did not move in unison because of miscommunication which resulted in the stand moving in a way that strained the right wrist and forearm.

Washington: #4- While carrying the covering for an orchestra pit with a special tool the tool slipped and landed on their foot causing pain and bruising to the left foot but no fracture.

We would like to reach as many relevant people as possible with this safety tool. Please send email addresses of any stewards, safety committee members or other stagehands who may be interested in receiving the Safety Spot to: Connor@UTPGroup.com