



Construction Safety Tips

Scene shops and stages abound with potential hazards. People are working simultaneously at different jobs—sawing, nailing, painting, and moving sets. Ropes and cables are hung overhead to suspend heavy instruments that, if accidentally dropped, could cause severe injury. Often actors need to walk backstage in the dark amid furniture, properties, and lighting cable. To prevent people from getting hurt, observe these safety rules—and make up more if the situation demands!

General Safety Tips

- Keep all working areas clean and organized.
- Be alert to what others are doing. As in driving, construction safety requires a defensive approach.
- Know the location of fire extinguishers on the stage, in the shop, and in the control booth, and know how to use them.
- Know the location of a well-equipped first-aid kit.
- Report all injuries or potential hazards to your instructor.
- Before raising or lowering a batten yell “Heads up!” and wait for everyone to respond before continuing.

Shop Safety Tips

- Wear protective clothing, including long pants, long sleeves, and hard-toed, rubber-soled shoes. Avoid loose clothing or jewelry that could get caught in power tools.
- Tie back long hair to prevent its being caught in power tools.
- Wear protective gear when necessary. Depending on the job, you might need goggles, earplugs, a dust mask, or a mask that filters out fumes.
- Know how to use your tools. Obey any warnings on tools. If you don’t know what you are doing, don’t do it!
- Pay attention. Don’t talk and become distracted.
- Unplug all power tools immediately after using them.
- Look for and correct any potential hazard, such as nails sticking out of boards.
- Watch where you are going. Look up if people are working above you. Also, don’t work on the floor when someone is overhead on a ladder, as tools can fall.
- Keep the shop well ventilated when dust and fumes are around.
- Use tools only as they were designed to be used. Do not improvise.