



SHAPE SAFETY BULLETIN #18

(Safety & Health In Arts Production & Entertainment)

AIR BAGS

These guidelines are intended to provide recommendations on the safe use of air bags.

1. The stunt coordinator shall provide the following information to the manufacturer/supplier of air bags so the proper air bag can be obtained:
 - a. The type(s) of stunt(s) to be performed.
 - b. The height(s) of the jump(s).
 - c. The weight which will impact the air bag.
 - d. The number of jumpers.
 - e. A description of the area where the bag will be placed.
 - f. Any unusual conditions which can be anticipated.
2. The stunt coordinator shall obtain information pertaining to the age of the air bag and its structural integrity. All air bags should be of good quality material and stitching.
3. Inspect the stitching, seams and vents before each use.
4. The stunt coordinator and the stunt performer shall inspect the air bag(s) prior to use.
5. Fans must be in safe and good mechanical condition. Inspect before use.
6. Utilize the proper size generator so there is sufficient voltage for the fan(s).
7. Place the generator no more than 15 metres (50 feet) from the fan(s) if at all possible.
8. Tape or seal all electrical connections so they do not become loose or disconnected while the air bags are in use.
9. Set up of each air bag shall be performed by a qualified stunt/safety person who is experienced in air bag set up.
10. Utilize a sufficient number of spotters, designated by the stunt coordinator, around each air bag to ensure the safety of the jumper.
11. The duties and equipment for Spotters should include the following:
 - a. Individual crash pads to protect the stunt performer(s) in case the performer(s) becomes misaligned during the high fall.

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- b. Observation for any unusual changes in atmospheric conditions, particularly wind, which may affect the performer's fall.
 - c. Lifting and moving the air-bag should the performer become misaligned during the fall.
 - d. Continuous inspection and awareness of all power operated equipment, namely generators and fans.
- 12.** Implement additional pre-planning if two jumpers are to use the same bag at the same time. This is particularly dangerous when the two jumpers are significantly different in weight.
- 13.** Prior to the stunt, conduct a planning meeting at the site with all personnel involved to review the procedures to be followed. Include an inspection of the site.
- 14.** Conduct a walk-through or dry run of the stunt sequence with all appropriate personnel on the day of the stunt. Assure that all have a clear understanding of the intended action, possible deviations, who has the authority to abort the stunt and the signal to abort. Every individual must clearly understand their function and exactly what is to take place.
- 15.** If any change in the set-up or the stunt is required, the Director shall have all persons involved called back together and recommendation number 13 above is to be repeated.
- 16.** Provide appropriate equipment to eliminate or control the chance of injury to personnel and damage to equipment.
- 17.** Allow only safety personnel and personnel necessary for assisting, directing or performing the stunt in the area of the air bags during the stunt. All other persons must be cleared from the area.
- 18.** Utilize only stunt performers who are experienced in the use of air bags and who have the special skills required to perform the particular stunt sequence.

