

# SHAPE NEWSLETTER

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Promoting  
Safe & Healthy  
Workplaces in the  
Performing Arts  
and Motion Picture  
& Video Industries  
Since 1998

## Fire Safety and Prevention for Theatres

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Now that summer is behind us and the indoor entertainment season is upon us, let's take a few moments to think about fire safety, and some of the key things that every venue needs to think about.

**Fire doors:** While these doors often get propped open during a show, what are the realistic chances of someone being able to unblock them all in the event of a fire? Keeping these doors shut could prevent a small fire from becoming a large one.

**Fire exits:** Sometimes the EXIT signs get covered over, the bulbs get removed, or they get blocked

from view. On top of that, exits get blocked with chairs, costume racks, props, or even scenery. What about the path to the door and outside away from the theatre – is it clear or blocked by cars, trash cans or dumpsters? It is not enough just to have an exit door - people need to be able to get out and away from the building.

**Fire extinguishers:** Do you know where they are? Have they been inspected and are they the right type? Do your workers know how to use them? Are they accessible and are there enough of them? *For more information on fire extinguishers, see the article "Fire Extinguisher Use" in this newsletter.*

**Fire hoses:** These are for the use of the fire department only and should not be blocked, covered or made inaccessible.

**Sprinkler heads and smoke detectors:** Are they in proper working order? Have they been painted or covered over? These items should be free of obstructions and need to be replaced if they have been painted or damaged.

**Flame treatment of scenic elements:** Are your draperies, costumes, and scenery inherently flame retardant or have they been

treated with flame resistant product so that they meet the standards for flame resistance? Check out the SHAPE video *How to Conduct a Field Flame Test* available at: [www.youtube.com/user/SHAPEbc](http://www.youtube.com/user/SHAPEbc).

**Electrical hazards:** Has your lighting equipment been properly serviced and is all cable and wiring in good working order and up to code? Faulty connections, improper wiring, and under-sized cable can easily start a fire.

**Electric heaters and appliances:** Is someone responsible for making sure that portable heaters, curling irons, and other such devices get unplugged at the end of the day? Make sure that heaters in particular, are kept away from combustible material and will switch off automatically if tipped over

**Fire plan:** Does your theatre have one? Does all of your staff know what to do if there is a fire? Have you held a fire drill in the past year? Make sure that everyone is trained in how to respond in the event of a fire or other emergency.

If you would like more information on fire safety in the theatre, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Winstanley, SHAPE's Performing Arts Health & Safety Consultant. He can be reached at [davew@shape.bc.ca](mailto:davew@shape.bc.ca) or at 604.733.4682, ext. 223.

## Using a Fire Extinguisher

Use a fire extinguisher only if you have been trained to do so and can first ensure that you will not endanger yourself while doing so.

Remember the acronym **PASS**:

PULL the pin, AIM the extinguisher, SQUEEZE or press the handle, SWEEP side to side at the base of the fire.

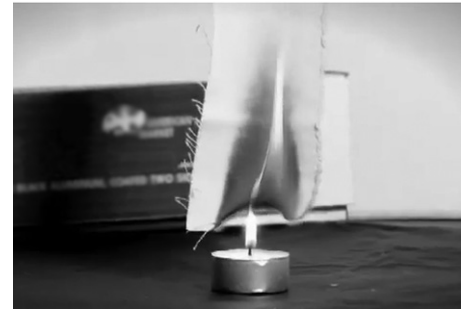
Tips for fire extinguisher use:

- Activate the fire alarm before attempting to extinguish the fire.
- Do not attempt to fight fire alone.
- Always have a second person with an additional fire extinguisher along with you.
- Never let fire get between you and the exit.
- Never turn your back on a fire.
- In the event a small fire continues to spread beyond its original ignition point or the smoke presents a hazard to the operator, leave the fire area immediately and close the door to the area to confine and contain the fire.
- Report to your designated meeting place.

Fire extinguisher rating is based on the fuel. **A** is a wood or paper fire; **B** is caused by flammable liquids; **C** is an electrical fire. Be sure to use the appropriate extinguisher for the fire you are attempting to put out.

For further information on fire extinguisher use, please refer to: [www.fireextinguisher.com](http://www.fireextinguisher.com) or refer to the *Fire Safety Training* article on page 3 of this newsletter.

## New SHAPE Video: How to Conduct a Field Flame Test



In response to a request from within the performing arts industry, SHAPE has just produced and launched a new video on how to conduct a field flame test to determine if a material is properly flame retarded.

The video discusses what to look for to see if a material is already properly flame retarded; when to test materials; where to look for information and, of course, how to conduct a field flame test.

**Please note:** A field flame test should only be conducted when a material's flame retardant documentation is not available. It is a last resort to check for flame retardation. When testing, only a sample of the material should be tested.

To see the video, visit SHAPE's Youtube channel at: [www.youtube.com/user/SHAPEbc](http://www.youtube.com/user/SHAPEbc)

SHAPE would like to thank Erin Neely of Hollynorth Production Supplies for her participation in the making of this video.

## Fire Stunts in Motion Picture

Below is an excerpt from our newly posted *Fire Prevention Fact Sheet*. You can find the full document, as well as other safety Fact Sheets on the *Safety Bulletin* page of our website ([www.shape.bc.ca](http://www.shape.bc.ca)).

Any scene or stunt simulating a body on fire must be performed by a competent professional stunt performer.

The stunt performer must arrive on the set with compliant protective equipment (fire protection equipment, ie. protection suit made of Nomex or the equivalent, fire extinguishing equipment, and in some cases, respiratory equipment) and with his/her assistants, who are aware of the risks inherent in the stunt.

If, during the scene, only part of the stunt performer's clothing is on fire, at least two people, each equipped with an appropriate extinguisher and specially trained to use it, must be on site. If a large part of the body is on fire or the flames could prevent the stunt performer from breathing or impair his/her vision, at least three people, each equipped with an appropriate extinguisher and specially trained to use it, must be on site.

The location manager or the unit manager must prepare an emergency response plan and give it to the production manager.

Before the stunt begins, CO2 extinguishers weighing at least 7 kg loaded must be available within reach of the responders and ready to be used in the event of an emergency.

If there are combustible materials in the area where the stunt will take place, the stunt coordinator must make sure that they are treated with fire retardant.

Before the stunt begins, the stunt coordinator must call the production crew to a meeting during which a rehearsal will be carried out detailing the planned action and each person's role. The stunt coordinator must indicate who will use the extinguishers, explain the response for fighting the fire, and do a rehearsal of the intervention.

During filming or recording of a scene involving a body on fire, a first aid attendant assigned solely to this task must be on site.

When possible, scenes involving a body on fire must be filmed indoors, on condition that the building is approved by the fire department. In this case, check for draughts. If the scenes are filmed or recorded outdoors, check the wind conditions.

Stunt performers must wear wigs made of natural hair and apply an aqueous gel over all exposed skin. The stunt coordinator must determine who among the members of the production crew should take the same precautions.

## Fire Safety Training

The City of Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services has Fire Safety and Fire Extinguisher Training available. The course provides a basic understanding of fire safety and the use and limitations of portable fire-fighting equipment that includes practical training on live fires.

### Course content includes:

Fire classifications, leading causes of fire, reporting an emergency, smoke alarms, evacuation plans and hands-on fire extinguisher training conducted using an environmentally friendly Fire Attack Simulation Tray.

### For more details visit:

[http://vancouver.ca/fire/Pub\\_train/extinguisher.html](http://vancouver.ca/fire/Pub_train/extinguisher.html)

## Win Cash or Canucks Tickets!

Here at SHAPE we are looking for ways to serve our industries more effectively. We are doing research on how best to do that, and to enable us to do that research effectively, we have hired Ipsos Reid. They will be conducting an online survey that will take less than 5 minutes of your time! We are asking you to please support us and the work we do by taking part in the survey and by spreading the word and asking others to do the same.

### Prizes!

There will be an early bird prize of \$100 cash. The first prize will be \$400 cash and the second prize is two tickets to the November 22 Vancouver Canucks vs the Chicago Blackhawks game (a \$350 value)!

Please check our website for the specifics on how to access the survey, or look for emails from unions or associations you are affiliated with. Your input will assist us in more effectively communicating to our industries.

Many thanks to Canucks Sports and Entertainment for their support of this important research project.

Keep an eye on [www.shape.bc.ca](http://www.shape.bc.ca) for more details.

# The key to safety is you



## SHAPE on Twitter

You can now follow SHAPE on Twitter! Search us under the user name SHAPEbc or just link directly to [www.twitter.com/SHAPEbc](http://www.twitter.com/SHAPEbc).

Follow us for weekly health & safety tips, news and other useful information!

## SHAPE Newsletter Direct to Your Inbox

Did you know that you can subscribe to the digital version of this newsletter? Visit the Newsletter page of our website ([www.shape.bc.ca](http://www.shape.bc.ca)) and enter your email address in the "Subscribe to the SHAPE Newsletter" box at the bottom of the page, click "Subscribe" and you're done. It's that easy!

### SHAPE Staff

**Dawn Brennan**  
General Manager

**Marty Clausen**  
Health & Safety Consultant (Film & Television)

**Dave Winstanley**  
Health & Safety Consultant (Performing Arts)

**Ed Brisson**  
Production Coordinator

**Maureen Kaake**  
Program Administrator

## SHAPE COURSES

For full course descriptions, dates and to register online, visit [www.shape.bc.ca/courses/](http://www.shape.bc.ca/courses/)

Courses must be paid in advance to SHAPE. Courses may be subject to cancellation. We would be happy to book a class for you if your group has the minimum number of participants.

Call 604-733-4682 for further details.

### Aerial Lift Training \$120 (Experienced - 1 Day) \$220 (Inexperienced - 2 Day)

**Experienced:**  
Saturday, October 24  
Saturday, November 28

**Inexperienced:**  
Saturday, Oct 24 and Sunday, Oct 25  
Saturday, Nov 28 and Sunday, Nov 29

**8:30am - 4:30pm**  
Instructor: Leavitt Machinery Operator Training

### Aerial Lift Over 80ft - \$200

Saturday, November 14

**8:30am - 4:30pm**  
Instructor: Leavitt Machinery Operator Training

### Counterbalanced Forklift \$120 (Experienced - 1 Day) \$220 (Inexperienced - 2 Day)

**Experienced:**  
Saturday, October 17  
Saturday, November 21

**Inexperienced:**  
Saturday, Oct 17 and Sunday, Oct 25  
Saturday, Nov 21 and Sunday, Nov 29

**8:30am - 4:30pm**  
Instructor: Leavitt Machinery Operator Training

### Firearm Safety Level 1 - \$50

Sunday, November 29

**10am to 5pm**  
Instructor: Felcan Enterprises

### Film & Television Safety Awareness\* - \$25

Tuesday, October 20  
Sunday, November 15  
Tuesday, December 15

**Tuesday: 6pm-9pm**  
**Sundays: 10am-1pm**  
Instructor: Marty Clausen

\*Take both Safety Awareness and Supervisor Safety for \$45

### Film & Television Supervisor Safety\* - \$25

Sunday, November 15

**1:30pm - 4:30pm**  
Instructor: Marty Clausen

\*Take both Safety Awareness and Supervisor Safety for \$45

### Occupational First Aid Level One - \$40

Monday, October 19  
Saturday, November 7  
Monday, November 23  
Saturday, December 12

**8:45am to 5:30pm**  
Instructor: Kathy

### Performing Arts Supervisor Safety - \$25

Monday, November 16 (1pm-5pm)

Instructor: Dave Winstanley

## ONLINE COURSES

**Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG)**  
\$20

**Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)**  
\$20

SHAPE has an in house computer station available to those who do not have internet access but wish to take our online courses. For details, call 604.733.4682.