

## SPOTLIGHT ON SITUATIONAL AWARENESS:

Greetings everyone, Ladd here:

Situational Awareness is essential for maintaining health and safety in the workplace. Although it is often discussed, not everyone understands what it means to be aware of their surroundings or how to improve this skill. This section will explain Situational Awareness and provide practical ways to acquire and maintain this vital skill at work and in daily life.

A working definition for Situational Awareness is “the ability to knowledgeably, consistently and proactively pay attention to what’s going on around you while doing your job.” It’s the foundation for forming preemptive safety solutions and is the only ability that can identify and hopefully mitigate a dangerous situation before it becomes an accident.

Especially during load in and load out conditions everyone’s safety, wellbeing, and job performance depends on the situational awareness capabilities of every team member at all times. Most workplace accidents are linked to errors resulting from lapses or the absence of Situational Awareness, either by the victim or someone nearby. By consistently practicing Situational Awareness, individuals and teams can significantly reduce accidents resulting from human error by “catching them” before they turn into accidents.

### Practicing and Improving Situational Awareness Abilities:

Some employees are naturally gifted with an awareness mindset. For those who are not, Situational Awareness is a skill that can be learned and improved by mindful practice of their awareness mindset. To do so take time to purposefully consider the following in your work and daily life:

- The most effective awareness state includes the ability to view situations from all perspectives, not just your own.
- Asking yourself if there are additional factors that could affect the safety of a situation.
- The most effective mindset questions without judgment. This is an essential attribute of team grounded Situational Awareness.
- Always remembering that effective Situational Awareness involves the development of your conscious and your subconscious minds.
- Keep jobsite safety “top of mind” by communicating about safety with others.
- Ensure that your safety messaging is understood by seeking confirmation and clarity, rather than assuming your warning has been received or accepted.
- Remembering that by being mindful of your fellow workers’ safety, you are also minding your own.

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- Observe how senior workers pace themselves and go about their work.
- Pay attention to the pace and flow of the working environment and merging with that.
- Inquire about and familiarize yourself with all relevant policies and procedures as you continue to work.
- Take advantage of any employer or Union-provided training sessions and never miss a safety meeting or training session that's possible to attend.
- When leaders model Situational Awareness, others are likely to follow when their team members are encouraged to adopt a 360-degree approach to observation and reinforcing the importance of everyone's vigilance.

**Below are some additional ideas for situational awareness directly tied to working as a stagehand:**

- Pausing before jumping from the stage to the ground and instead finding and using the stairs to change elevation. Reminding other would-be "jumpers" to do the same.
- Intervening when a co-worker is setting up to race a lighting rack over a cable channel threshold by pulling from the front and running backwards.
- Reminding a coworker to watch his backstep and/or ask for fall protection while working near an unprotected height.
- Noticing heat stress symptoms in a coworker and insisting that he take on water and recover in the shade.
- Reminding self and others to "always keep your feet away from everything with wheels."
- Noticing and intervene when an inattentive coworker is too close to a working forklift.
- Reminding an aggressive forklift driver to "slow down" or to sound his horn when approaching blind corners or pedestrian crossing areas.
- Opting and advising to push rather than pull a piece of rolling freight because pushing is safer.
- "Jumping in to help" anytime a coworker is struggling with something that's too unwieldy to be managed alone.
- Staying out of the line of fire. Avoiding hazardous areas or moving objects before they have a chance to cause harm.
- Remind self and others to wear hardhats when applicable, and to always wear gloves.
- Paying attention to overhead rigging operations and warning others away from overhead rigging operations where hauling ropes are hanging from the ceiling.
- Noticing when coworkers aren't steel toe shoe compliant and individually encouraging each of them with convenient ways they can buy them.
- Stepping up and stopping work to confront a dangerous condition before it results in an injury.

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## Deterrents to the Effectiveness of Situational Awareness – Emotions, Attitudes and Conditions to avoid or remedy:

UTP can provide information about safe practices and equipment to help prevent injuries, but it can't protect someone who is inattentive or lackadaisical about personal safety. As most workplace accidents stem from carelessness, lack of attention, or ignorance, a **Positive Attitude, Awareness, Knowledge and Common Sense-- aka Situational Awareness--** are the most important tools anyone can bring to UTP's jobsites. The commitment to these four elements is everyone's most effective strategy against error-related lost work injuries.

A lackadaisical attitude toward safety, in turn, jeopardizes your safety and others' as well. Careless attitudes can also affect future job opportunities for everyone. Other conditions that can compromise a Situationally Aware attitude include:

- **Complacency:** Operating on "automatic pilot" increases the risk of accidents.
- **Distractions and Emotions:** Allowing these to take over can create more immediate hazards.
- **Tiredness:** Physical and mental reactions slow down when you are fatigued.
- **Lack of Knowledge:** Not attending all industry-related Safety Meetings and training sessions can mean an inability to recognize an unsafe situation, even with an aware proactive mindset. Never take on unfamiliar assignment without direction from someone who understands potential risks, protective measures and the safest way to proceed.
- **Know-it-all or a Reckless Attitude:** Such behavior endangers the individual and everyone else. Such individuals have no place in UTP's working environments.

**Fulfilling Your Safety Responsibilities** means being proactive about preventing and improving these conditions and applying your knowledge to each situation you encounter. It means anticipating potential hazards and considering the possible risks on every project. Maintaining a safe attitude means recognizing and understanding the dangers you face and planning how to protect yourself and others, ultimately preventing accidents before they happen.

Always ask yourself: Is there a safer way to do this?

With this in mind, I encourage to read through the list of accidents included in this safety spot and think if they could have been avoided with better situational awareness.

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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, please call UTP's main office line at (801) 328-1298 during business hours 8am to 4pm MST. If it is after hours or on weekends you can call our dedicated injury hotline at (801) 209-9193. You will be guided through the injury reporting 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.
- ☐ **If help is needed in arranging transportation to a medical facility, please request assistance when you call our office or hotline.** We can arrange to have injured workers taken to the medical facility through a transportation service for many types of injuries.
- ☐ **The employee, supervisor and witnesses must fill out the necessary reports.** This can be accomplished at [www.utpgroup.com](http://www.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](mailto:workcomp@utpgroup.com)

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## A Tale of Our Accidents

The following is a list of incidents & accidents that have occurred in the first half of 2025.

**Alabama: #1-** While helping lift truss legs with another co-worker. The first worker tripped, landing on their wrist and breaking it.

**Arizona: #1-** An employee was operating a gel cutter to create labels. While using the cutter their hands got too close to the blade and lacerated their thumb.

**Arizona: #2-** An employee tried stepping onto the deck but stepped onto a track instead. This caused a left ankle sprain.

**Arizona: #3-** An employee was moving a case. After the case was moved, a stack of pony walls fell into them. This caused a laceration to their left leg.

**Arizona: #4-** An employee was moving metal railing and lost their grip. The metal railing fell onto their left foot. This caused a laceration to their left big toe.

**Arizona: #5-** An employee was carrying trusses when their hand got caught between two pieces. This resulted in a smashed index finger.

**California: #1-** An employee was trying to open a freight elevator door. The door was jammed but then swung open hitting their head resulting in a concussion.

**California: #2-** An employee was holding a temporary wall with another employee. The second worker let go of the wall and it fell into the first employee. This caused fractures to their toes on both feet.

**Florida: #1-** An employee started feeling dizzy. They tripped over a light cable, falling to the floor. This resulted in a concussion.

**Florida: #2-** An employee was cutting zip ties when the knife slipped. This resulted in cuts to their middle and ring finger on their left hand.

**Florida: #3-** An employee was handing off cable ramps from the stage. While doing so they lost awareness of the stage edge and fell off the stage to their feet and knees.

**Florida: #4-** An employee was working outside carrying metal material. They started feeling dizzy and dehydrated. This resulted in a trip to the ER for heat exhaustion.

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## A Tale of Our Accidents- Continued

**Florida: #5-** An employee was working outside in the heat. They started feeling dizzy and dehydrated. This resulted in a trip to the ER for heat exhaustion.

**Florida: #6-** An employee was pushing an LED cart to the truck. The wheel got stuck at the bottom of the ramp and swung around hitting their leg. This resulted in a laceration and swelling in their right shin.

**Florida: #7-** An employee was walking down the bleacher steps. They tripped over a pipe and drape. This resulted in a sprained left ankle.

**Georgia: #1-** An employee tried skipping a step on a spiral staircase that someone had left paperwork on. They slipped and fell down additional steps straining their back and hip.

**Georgia: #2-** An employee was opening a table leg. The table leg bent their right middle finger backwards, resulting in a hyperextended finger.

**Iowa: #1-** An employee was holding a piece of truss. They tripped over the bottom of the truss falling into it. This resulted in a left shoulder strain.

**Iowa: #2-** An employee was unloading a case. They felt their shoulder pop. This resulted in a dislocated left shoulder.

**Oregon: #1-** An employee was coiling a large motor cable. The cable got away from the employee and the metal connection on the end hit their head. This resulted in a contusion to their right ear.

**South Carolina: #1-** An employee helping steady a case that was being moved by a forklift. The employee got caught between the load and the stage. This resulted in a crushing injury where they had to have chest reconstructive surgery.

**South Carolina: #2-** An employee was setting up a monitor console. The employee got too close to the edge and fell off the stage. This resulted in a strained left shoulder.

**Utah: #1-** An employee was installing pipe and drape. The chain on the drape swung up and hit their face. This resulted in a contusion to their chin.

**Utah: #2-** An employee was pushing a deck cart when they tripped. This resulted in a sprained left ankle and a fractured right hand.

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## A Tale of Our Accidents- Continued

**Utah: #3-** An employee was working with deck pieces. They attempted to straighten the deck pieces by pushing the deck cart they were on against a wall. In doing so they smashed their right ring finger causing the tip of their finger to be severed.

**Utah: #4-** An employee was carrying heavy material when they felt pain in the bottom of their left foot. This resulted in a left foot strain.

**Utah: #5-** An employee was pushing a cart. There was a step up to an ice event surface which they tripped on and fell. This resulted in a sprained left ankle and a very severe cut to their right knee requiring 14 stitches.

**Utah: #6-** An employee was pushing a cart with a stack of chairs. The wheel of the cart dropped in a crack in the concrete, causing the stack of chairs to tip and strike the employee. This resulted in a contusion to their left leg.

**Utah: #7-** An employee was climbing down from a structure onto the grass. The grass was wet, causing the employee to slip and fall backwards into scaffolding. This resulted in a laceration to their left elbow requiring stitches.

**Washington: #1-** An employee was helping lift a wooden deck. While pushing it into place, their finger got caught on the edge of the deck. This resulted in a laceration to their left ring finger.

**Washington: #2-** An employee was working on stage. A pipe from up in the grid fell between a crack coming down towards the stage, hitting the employee in the head. This resulted in a concussion and fracture of their tooth.

**Washington: #3-** An employee was working as a boom lift rigger. While attempting to make the connection between the shackle on the structure and the hanging cable, they felt a sharp pain in their shoulder. This resulted in a sprained left shoulder.

**Washington: #4-** An employee was plugging in electrical cables, when they could not get the cables to connect properly, they forced the connection causing the cables to arc. This resulted in an electrical burn to their right hand.

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](mailto:Connor@UTPGroup.com)