

Greetings everyone, Ladd, here:

After recent Safety Spot submissions and Zoom safety meetings, we are aware of UTP's first deployment of **impact glove protection** in the hope of mitigating hand injuries at strategic locations. In addition to the Q1 2023 submission, Lonnie has asked me to submit a reminder of UTP's impact protection glove campaign for this edition, a "reference manual" with enough content to inform several job box safety meeting agendas.

## **ENSURING AGAINST HAND and FINGER TRAUMA IN THE WORKPLACE:**

**With employee safety foremost in mind, UTP is providing impact style glove protection to be worn during all "hands on" operations specified herein, and anytime a potential for a pinch or crush injury is present.**

Seriously injured hands and fingers "happen" more frequently than any other injury class in our lines of work. What isn't as often realized is that a seriously injured hand can remain compromised even after extensive therapy, permanently affecting future work capability and daily living activities formerly taken for granted.

**Lack of impact glove protection, inexperience, lack of situational awareness and preoccupations are critical contributors to impact, cut and abrasion injuries that vigilant awareness and impact glove protection can best prevent.**

Dr. Gregory A. Merrell, a surgeon at the Indiana Hand injury and surgical training center, says that the most frequently encountered types of hand injuries include:

- Cuts or abrasions and impact trauma
- Overuse or repetitive-motion injuries
- Amputation

Specific to our lines of work, "cuts or abrasions and impact trauma" are UTP's dominant injury class, with incidences most likely to occur during:

- Truck loading operations, including onboard truck ramp or dock plate management.
- Installations and removal of temporary staging support structures and deckage.
- Arena or hockey surface temporary flooring changeouts.
- Scaffolding install and takedown operations.
- Load in and load out handling of rolling cases, wheeled cages, hampers, open racks; freight or other wheeled conveyances aka WCs, see below:

As the risk of a hand injury situation can arise anywhere, the development of habits that include the following strategies, principles that can be expanded to reduce risk in any "hands on" working environment.

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Note: With exposure to any set of safety principles, the most important attribute everyone can aspire to is the ability to remain situationally aware and present while engaged in any “hands on” work related activity. It is in this mental state that the spontaneous application of the following safety principles is most likely to occur. Hand position mindfulness can be by become a habit by conscientiously learning and consistently applying these precautions.

- ***Always wear impact glove protection when handling and installing removeable stage supports and decking.***
- ***Become “second nature” familiar with stable and safe lifting techniques.***
- ***Before positioning your hands to make a lift, anticipate possible pinch or crush points if something slips, and place your hands in a way that eliminates hand injury potential.***
- ***When managing braces, uprights, cross members or collapsible scaffolding, never “wrap” your fingers around a member at any point that can possibly collide with anything else.***
- ***Maintain communication or eye contact with fellow workers. Be mindful of your co-worker’s rhythm, and observe to ensure that all lifts and hand placements are smooth and coordinated.***
- ***Don’t hurry. Anticipate potential crush points, and make every hand placement conscious, deliberate and safe.***
- ***When handling temporary stage decks, never position your hands where they can be pinched, scraped or crushed against each other or supporting structures, and always when stacking or closing stage components into place.***
- ***Anticipate potential pinch and crush points when opening and closing collapsible bleachers.***
- ***If you observe unsafe hand-safety practice by fellow worker, don’t hesitate to intervene.***

**Hand and extremity comporment around forklifts and machinery hydraulics:**

- ***Always be mindful of proximity, and always keep hands away from the moving parts of powered lift equipment and masts.***
- ***When approaching a forklift-managed load, stand away with hands off until the load is completely landed and the forklift has disengaged.***

**Handling road cases, racks, hampers, scenery carts, wardrobes and all other Wheeled Conveyances (WCs):**

Note: While the following *italicized* points are hand injury specific, more general WC control principles are also included:

- ***Always wear impact glove protection when working with WCs.***
- ***When pushing or pulling a WC, maintain situational awareness to anticipate collision potential with other stuff in the workspace.***
- ***Engage racks, cages and strapped carts with fingers outside or positioned in a way that eliminates crush potential from shifting contents.***
- ***When handling rolling freight, develop the habit of positioning your hands on push points between the corners and sides. Remember that hands positioned inside a perimeter can’t be trapped in the event of a collision.***

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- *Notify appropriate personnel of jagged edges or welds, burrs, damaged butterfly latches handles, hinges, or lids, loosened or broken castors or other anomaly that could potentially contribute to hand, loss of control, or any other injury.*
- *When stacking WCs requires the adjustment of a castor wheel into a wheel pocket or “doughnut” on a supporting lid, do it from the outside corner, and never reach between the components of any WC stack for any reason. Always ensure the supporting component is stable, that others are aware of what you are doing, and that the stack isn’t moved until you say “clear”.*
- *Notify appropriate personnel of broken straps, butterfly latches, hinges, jagged edges, welds, burrs or other anomalies that could result in a hand or other injury.*
- *Never attempt to relocate a WC you can’t see around or safely control without help.*

## **General WC Management:**

- **Never accelerate a WC beyond a steady, controlled walk.**
- **Never leave a WC unattended or insecurely blocked on an unlevel surface.**
- **Always maintain adequate stopping distance (6 feet) between your WC and persons or objects ahead.**
- **Never relocate a WC that you cannot see over or around, or one that’s too heavy or unbalanced to securely control without help.**
- *Add anything you can think of that may have been missed or inadequately explained in this letter.*

A study wherein retirees from machine, wood, and cabinet shops were asked how they had survived their careers with all of their fingers, most stated that once learned, they made it a point not to deviate from safe and repeatable practice, and never forced, took shortcuts or “rushed” the plan. Retirees who had lost fingers or worse mostly cited “lapses of attention”, “doing something stupid”, “forcing a machine” and “taking short cuts” as primary reasons for their injuries. Working when mentally or physically tired or preoccupied were also cited as contributing factors.

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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 [utpproductions.com](http://utpproductions.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)

# SAFETY SPOT

## A Tale of Our Accidents

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

**Arizona: #1-** While unloading a truck the loading cart started to roll and the employee reached out to hold cart. A loose pallet shifted pinching their hand against the carts handlebar. This crushed their right hand, causing fractures to multiple fingers.

**Arizona: #2-** While taking the magnetic legs off a truss as a group one employee was told to kick the legs off. When they did so the leg flew off with force and hit another employee in the right knee. This caused contusions and a sprain to right knee.

**Arizona: #3-** While folding and packing up stage backdrops with tie lines set out on the stage an employee's feet became tangled in the tielines causing them to trip and fall. This caused a sprain to their foot and ankle.

**California: #1-** While walking down the stage risers during a show an employee strained their right knee.

**California: #2** - While working on metal bleacher stands an employee had their right hand crushed between the metal bleacher stands.

**Georgia: #1-** While moving a temporary stage decking the employee pinched their hand between the stage deck pieces. This caused a laceration to right middle and index fingers.

**Hawaii: #1-** While unloading containers the loading cart started to roll off the loading dock. The employee tried to stop the cart when the handlebar broke off causing him to lose balance and fall backwards off the loading dock. This caused contusions to the left leg, hip and lower back.

**Hawaii: #2-** While unloading steel platforms employee strained their lower back.

**Utah: #1-** While loading video panels into cases employee caught their elbow between the panel and case causing them to strain their elbow.

**Utah: #2** - While team pulling a loading cart across stage the lead employee stopped without communicating to rear employee who proceeded to run over his foot. This caused contusions to his left foot and toes.

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## A Tale of Our Accidents- Continued

**Utah: #3** - While loading weights onto an arbor the employee hand was smashed between two weights. This crushed the employee's hand causing contusions and lacerations.

**Texas: #1**- While team loading electrical cables onto loading cart one employee left leaving the employee to both pull and coil the cables alone. While doing so the employee strained their right shoulder.

**Texas: #2**- While working an outdoor event at night an employee was unable to see a step up on the stage and tripped landing with his elbow smashing into his ribs. This caused contusions and pain to rib area.

**Washington: #1**- While opening shrink wrapped packaging with a utility knife the employee slipped and cut his upper left leg.

**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)