

Greetings everyone, Ladd, here:

Due to the repetitive exposure to Wheeled Containers (rolling freight) during load in and out operations and other causes, UTP employees experience a disproportionately high percentage of foot and ankle injuries. This letter includes four "safety talk essentials" topics for consideration:

WHEELED CONTAINER/ROLLING FREIGHT MANAGEMENT AND PRECAUTIONS:

Collisions and runover encounters with Wheeled Containers during load ins and outs are leading causes of crushed foot injuries. Encouraging employees to review these precautions until they become habits will greatly reduce WC impact injuries.

- Wake up! Look around! Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Always wear snug fitting impact gloves and, if possible, steel-toed shoes when managing Wheeled Containers.
- Never attempt to relocate a WC you cannot see around or control without help.
- Pushing is safer than pulling.
- Never pull a WC from the front that others are pushing.
- Never accelerate a WC beyond a steady, controlled walk.
- Never leave an unattended WC insecurely blocked on an unlevel surface.
- Always maintain 6 feet between your WC and the one in front and behind.
- Never release a WC into a truck or a relay until the receiver is aware and ready.

SLIP, TRIP AND FALL HAZARDS AND PRECAUTIONS:

Slips, Trips and Falls account for 15% of all reported disabling injuries, including foot, ankle and joint strains, tears, and sprains. As severe strain sites age, they can become prone to arthritis and further injury down the road. Precautions are:

- Never walk while using handheld electronics, or while otherwise distracted.
- Always be aware of your proximity to dock ledges, trailer thresholds, truck ramp corners, and dock plates edges.
- Always be aware of open unprotected riser edges, open orchestra pits and stage apron thresholds.
- Never step backwards without SEEING where and on what your foot will land.
- Beware of stepping on anything between the sole of your shoe and the floor.
- Always wear slip-on ice cleats (yak tracks) when working on ice shows, and always remove them before working on cement.
- Always use the handrail when negotiating stairs.

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DROPPED OBJECT PRECAUTIONS:

Remember that the dropped edge of a heavy object concentrates its weight at the impact site with foot crushing potential.

- Make steel toe shoes your standard for working in this industry.
- Job one is don't drop anything that can land on your feet.
- Use proper lifting techniques.
- Any time an object is awkward to carry or questionably heavy, get help.
- Always wear snug fitting impact protected gloves and maintain a sure grip when installing. Removing, or stacking lifted objects.
- When repetitively loading, lifting, or stacking anything; develop an aware, predictable, rhythm with your lifting partners. Be sure everyone is ready.
- Never try and stop or brace against a falling stack, lighting tower or anything else. Jump clear and let it happen.
- Practice paying continuous attention to where your feet are when falling object conditions are present.

SELECTING AND SIZING YOUR STEEL TOE SHOE OR BOOT:

This line of work requires considerable time on your feet on cement surfaces. The time spent determining the best possible fit for a wearer's particular foot is time well spent. If the wearer is confident in the way their shoe feels on their feet already that's great, but if there is any doubt the following guidelines will ensure a protective, comfortable, and long-wearing fit.

- The inner side of the shoe must be straight from the heel to the end of the big toe.
- The shoe must grip the heel firmly.
- The composite or steel-capped toe box must allow freedom of movement and a ½ inch of room in front of the toes.
- The shoe must lace or have a fastening across the instep to prevent the foot from slipping when walking.
- The shoe must have a low, wide-based heel; flat soles are recommended.
- Have both feet measured when buying shoes. Feet normally differ in size. Buy the size of the larger foot.
- Consider purchasing shock-absorbing insoles when a job requires walking or standing on hard floors.
- Size and fit shoes in late afternoon when feet are likely to be swollen to their maximum size. Be sure to consider insoles, orthotics, and socks that you will be wearing with the shoes.
- Shoes and boots should fit snugly around the heel and ankle when laced.
- Do not expect that footwear that is too tight will stretch with wear.

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CRUSHED FOOT RECOVERY and CONSEQUENCES

Of the content used to prepare this document, none explains better why crushed foot injuries are to be avoided at all costs than the one below. Consider this image of a “healed” crushed toe and joint injury that could easily have been caused by road case wheel or a heavy object impact:



Notice how the mending plate and the horizontal member attach and immobilize what is left of the crushed joint and big toe. What is not shown is how this configuration will affect foot performance for the rest of this person’s life. Even if the hardware is removed and a measure of flexibility is recovered, the site remains a permanent candidate for: arthritis, protracted pain, impairment, and lost quality of life down the road. What if instead, the memory of this impact was only a scuff on a steel toe shoe?

FINAL THOUGHT:

None of us expects a crushed foot injury to happen to us... until it does. If you haven’t already, please consider making wearing steel toe shoes your workplace standard.

UTP has partnered with Skechers for a 30% discount on work shoes. Use the details below to take advantage of this program. This information can also be found on our website www.utpgroup.com under the Personal Protective Equipment section.

SHOP ONLINE:

First-time users: Register at the link below using your Company Access Code.

www.skechersdirect.com/register

Company Access Code: **HDPJJ54P**

(Company Access Code is case-sensitive.)

If you are already registered, log in at www.skechersdirect.com/login

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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 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

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A Tale of Our Accidents

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

Alabama: #1- While walking up a stage ramp an employee felt a sudden pop in their left calf. Employee suffered a strain to their calf.

Arizona: #1- While riding their motorized scooter into the venue via going down the loading ramp. When the employee hit the transition from ramp to flat surface, they lost their balance and fell. The employee suffered a fractured left wrist when they tried to catch their fall.

Arizona: #2- While loading in the shell that covers the stage which requires pushing and pulling panels into place the process was requiring more effort than normal. The extra effort needed led to the employee overexerting themselves. The employee then suffered a strain to their lower back.

California: #1- While pushing and loading a box into place the employee stepped down awkwardly afterwards and twisted their right knee wrong and felt an immediate pop. Employee suffered a tear of the right knee meniscus.

California: #2- While walking across the venue floor the employee tried to step through a loop of cables that was hanging between two trusses and caught their leg on the cables causing them to trip and fall. Employee suffered a strain to the left knee and wrist.

Florida: #1- While the employee was moving music stands from an upper deck down to the orchestra pit one of the music stands shifted while unloading. This caused the employee to lose their balance and drop down to the pit from the upper deck. The employee landed unevenly from the fall and suffered a fractured fibula.

Florida: #2- While performing a team lift with three other employees of a heavy road case the employee did not lift at the same time as the rest of the team. This caused the employee to lift extra weight and strained their middle and left part of their back.

Florida: #3- While performing a team lift lowering sound equipment into the front of house pit area the employee's hand slipped and was crushed between the sound equipment and the pit area wall. The employee suffered bone-deep lacerations and fractures to their left-hand ring finger.

Florida: #4- Two employees were not paying sufficient attention and accidentally pushed a heavy load cart into another employee's leg. That employee suffered a strain of their Achilles.

Florida: #5- Employee suffered heat exhaustion while working at outdoor show and suffered a dizzy spell and felt extremely ill.

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A Tale of Our Accidents- Continued

Florida: #6- While loading audio stacks at an outdoor show where there had been rain earlier the employee slipped on the wet deck and fell backwards off the stage. The employee landed on their lower back and hip and suffered bruising to their back and hips.

Florida: #7- While trying to get out of a sudden outburst of rain at an outdoor venue the employee hit their head on low hanging beams while walking up the stage stairs. Employee suffered a laceration to their head.

Georgia: #1- While walking into stage area the employee stepped on a loose panel of a cable trough leading him to twist their left leg awkwardly. This caused the employee to suffer a strain of the left knee meniscus.

North Carolina: #1- While moving CO2 tanks a pressure valve went off. This startled the employee who ran from the noise and cut their leg on another nearby tank dolly. Employee suffered a laceration to their left leg.

Oregon: #1- While unloading a van the employee stepped out from the back of a van onto the loading dock but misstepped into the gap between the van and loading dock. This caused the employee to fall and suffer a strain to their knee and a minor abrasion to the back of their leg.

Utah: #1- While aiding another employee by guiding a heavy cart down the loading ramp the other employee lost control of the cart which proceeded to knock the assisting employee over. This employee suffered a laceration to the top of their head.

Texas: #1- Employee was landing chain hoists into road cases. While working with two electric motors the employee grabbed a chain and accidentally created a circuit between the motors. The employee suffered an electrical shock before power to the motors was killed.

Texas: #2- Employee was working with part of the road crew to move heavy carts over a cable ramp. A second employee pushed hard to get the cart over the ramp without sufficient warning and knocked the first employee over. This caused the employee to fall and suffer a broken toe from the cart.

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