

Draft 4 4 2023

That's not Entertainment

Entertainment Industry Safety



Rust

- -Dave Halls, first assistant director was sentenced on Friday for the on-set shooting death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins



March 2023

- 1 dead, 28 hurt
- Emergency managers say tornado sirens went off at 7:24 Friday night, just over 20 minutes before the roof collapsed at the Apollo.
- Concertgoers say they got warnings on their phones and there was eventually an effort to move people to the basement. But it came too late.



Trampling 2021

- Houston TX
- Travis Scott concert
- 50,000 people
- Surge left 8 dead



2021

- Federal regulators have cited the Shubert Organization for four serious workplace safety violations and proposed a fine of **\$45,642** in connection with the death of an employee who fell from a ladder while working at the Winter Garden Theater last fall.



Mar 2020

- A production assistant working on the CW's *Batwoman* has been left paralyzed from the waist down after suffering an injury on the set of the Warner Bros TV-produced superhero drama series, which films in Vancouver.
- Amanda Smith, 30, was working below the Georgia Viaduct in Vancouver during a location shoot setup on March 11 when “the bucket of a lift lowered onto her head,” according to a GoFundMe page created for Smith.



2020

- *\$8.6 million awarded to family of stuntman who died on set of “The Walking Dead”*
- 2017 fall that killed a stuntman on the set of The Walking Dead.
- Jurors deliberated for the better part of three days before reaching their verdict, which found the production studios and personnel overseeing filming of the stunt responsible for the 20-plus-foot fall that killed John Bernecker, 33.
- Bernecker himself was found 6% at fault for the accident, likely reducing the post-verdict award to \$8.084 million.
- Bernecker’s parents claim a lack of appropriate safety measures caused their son to miss his mark on a 10 x 10-foot safety pad, hitting the unprotected ground beneath the balcony.



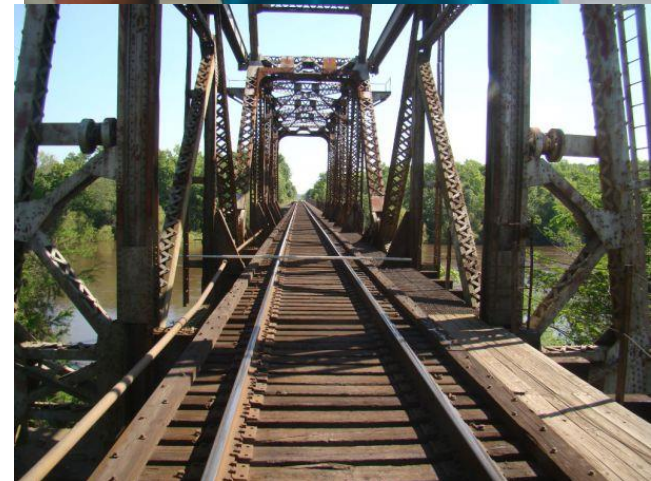
2015

- **Director** Randall Miller
sentenced to two years in jail.



Midnight Rider

- February 20, 2014 in Wayne County, GA
- Sarah Jones, second camera assistant, was killed when a freight train struck her on the set of the Gregg Allman biopic.
- Four other people were injured in the accident, one seriously.
- The movie crew was filming a dream sequence on a railroad trestle when a train unexpectedly crossed the bridge.
- The crew had placed a bed on the tracks for the scene and was expecting two trains on the local bridge, one in each direction, when a third train arrived unexpectedly.
- Director Randall Miller and the still photographer rushed to get the bed off the tracks while the rest of the crew tried to get off the bridge on a plank walkway. They were still trying to get off the bridge when the train arrived.



Cops

- August 26, 2014 in Omaha, NE
- Bryce Dion, a 38-year-old sound engineer who would hold the microphone during filming, was caught in a hail of bullets unleashed by police after a prison parolee from Kansas used an air gun to hold up a Wendy's.
- The suspect, 32-year-old Cortez Washington, was also shot dead.
- Crew members of the popular TV show, which embeds cameras as police patrol city streets across the country, wear bulletproof vests during filming.
- The chief said the fatal bullet that struck Dion hit near his left armpit where there is an opening in the vest.
- "The officers had no choice other than to respond in manner that they did," Police Chief Schmaderer said after seeing the footage.
- In some 25 years of filming, Langley Productions said no crew members had been shot or seriously injured as part of "Cops."



Falling Skies

- September 15, 2014 in a suburb of Vancouver, Canada
- A security guard was crushed by a runaway truck as the crew prepared for the next day's shooting. The vehicle had its tailgate down and pinned the guard against a tree.
- “A five-ton truck parked on a six percent slope had been left unattended. The vehicle tailgate was lowered for off-loading of equipment. The truck rolled backwards down the slope and the deceased worker was caught between the tailgate and the tree.”
- Ambulance crews were able to release him, but he was declared dead on arrival to the hospital.



Stage 2011

- A **\$39 million** settlement was reached Friday with the families of victims of the 2011 Indiana State Fair stage collapse. Seven people were killed and nearly 60 were injured in the collapse



Expendables 2

- Kun Liu, a Chinese stuntman, was killed in Bulgaria on October 27, 2011, during the making of the action film.
- According to a lawsuit brought by Liu's parents, the studio and second unit director/stunt coordinator Chad Stahelski are responsible for the unsafe conditions during a boat sequence that lead to his death.
- The defendants "recklessly organized, planned, set up, produced, directed, trained, coordinated and otherwise prepared for and implemented the stunt which involved the use of explosives and other similar ultra-hazardous activities in the rubber boat so as to cause an explosion, thereby injuring [Liu] and causing his death," the lawsuit alleges.



Egress

- 2010 - 21 died, 500 injured at Germany's Love Parade fest.
- 1979 - 11 concert goers were killed and scores were injured to see The Who.
- 1998 - 8 people were killed in a stampede by fans rushing the stage Friday night at an outdoor Pearl Jam.
- Training in crowd management is essential for staff and planning an event.

http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data/General_Facts/Crowd_Control.html Is OSHA's guidelines for crowd controls. The principles are applicable in Entertainment.



Egress

- E2 – 21 died in 2003 in a trampling accident
- On November 25, 2009, two owners of the nightclub were found guilty of indirect criminal contempt for violating the previous orders to close the entire second floor of the club and were sentenced to two years in prison

The doors did not swing out in path of exit travel was one many issues.



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"Holy (blank). Holy (blank). This is terrifying."



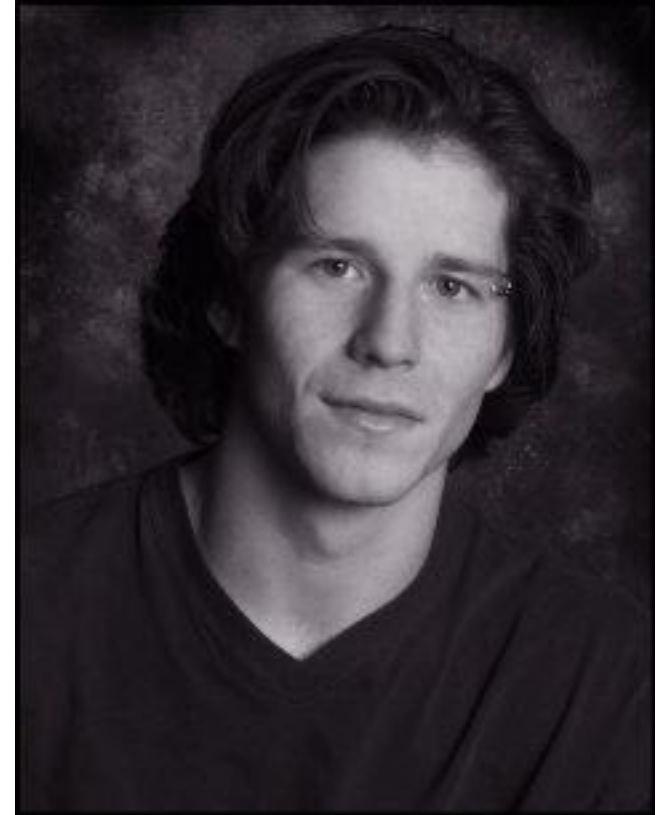
- Declan Sullivan's tweet from on top the aerial lift.
- Winds were 51 mph.
- Wind alert last two days.
- What was the safe wind for this aerial lift?
- Declan, age 20, was slated to go off to study in China next semester.



***A day of employee aerial lift training is industry practice. See
www.ipaf.org***

'Spider-Man' stunt goes awry; is show in peril?

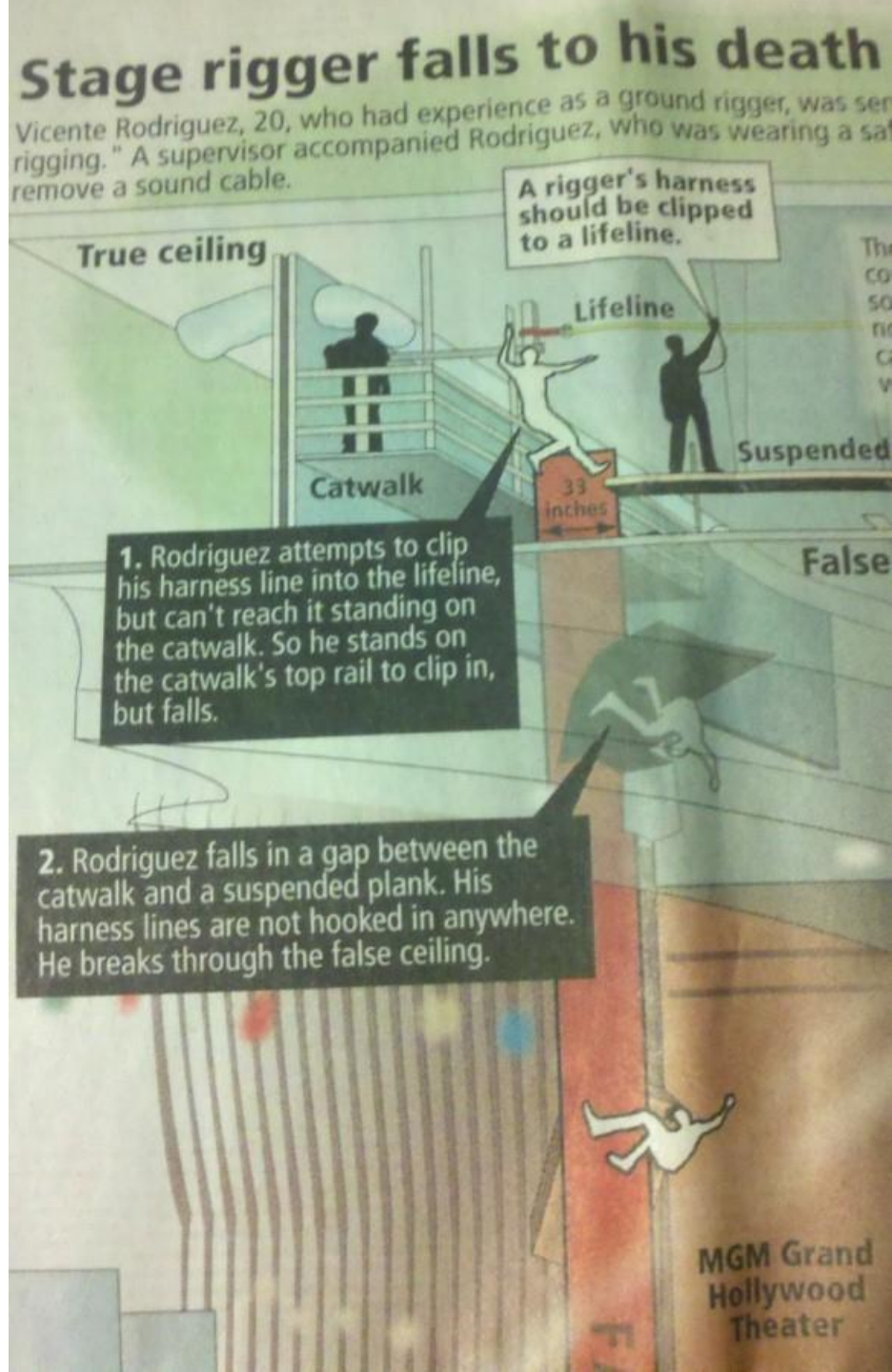
- Revenues lost due to accident are over million.
- Back surgeries are thousands of dollars.
- CBS said the harness broke on 12-23-10.
- An ANSI Z359 harness \$200.
- Do the math.
- \$200 or a whole cast out of work with millions lost.
- Most accidents are preventable and good cases for business viability.



Stuntman Christopher Tierney who fell over 20 feet is undergoing back surgery in the 12-21-10 fall.

Falls

- Vicente Rodriguez died on May 20, 2009, five days after his 20th birthday, at the MGM Grand's Hollywood Theater.
- He was working as a high rigger, a job he was not trained to do, when he fell 40 feet to his death



The Effect on Families

“Vicente Enrique Rodriguez, it was an honor to be your mother, you were the very best of both of us, and what a human being should be.”

Marychris Rodriguez



Accident Causation Factors 2010

- 42 falls: includes 8 falls from ladder, 4 falls from catwalk, 2 scaffolds, 2 aerial lifts
- 35 struck by objects include 14 saw blades, 13 falling objects (8 vehicle loads), 3 struck by flying object
- 10 collapses: 5 aerial lifts, 2 forklifts, 2 ladders, 1 scaffold
- 7 burns: 4 pyrotechnics. 2 arc blasts, 1 gunpowder
- 6 caught in/between
- 4 pyrotechnic explosions
- 16 others include 4 inhalation of CO, 3 hearing loss, 2 pedestrian struck by vehicle, 2 motor vehicle incidents
- But there is more.....trampling, etc.

These Deaths Were Preventable

- These were not isolated cases.
- There were 23 deaths and 103 injuries for a total of 126 in 118 incidents from 2000-2010. This included three double, one triple and one quadruple incident.
- Vicente Rodriguez's death was one of 42 fall that OSHA can document from 2000-2010.
- You as a worker have a right to a safe workplace.
- In the entertainment industry these are your FIVE largest risks among many.
 - Falls
 - Rigging Failure
 - Saws
 - Hearing loss
 - Fire
- All of these are preventable

Fatigue

- Some production crews have worked 20+days in a row of 12+hour days.
- If workers are too tired to remember their training, that is when bad things happen.
- Fatigue Management Plan.
- http://www.csb.gov/completed_investigations/docs/CSBFinalReportBP.pdf pages 293-299

Fatigue a causal or contributing factor.

- Three Mile Island,
- Chernoble and
- Exxon Valdez.
- Challenger Disaster.

The Baker Commission investigating the BP Texas City disaster in the US recommended to BP the development of a Fatigue Management Plan

Rigging

- October 3, 2006
- Trying to lift 4,700 pounds support stand
- Sling broke
- Employee received multiple fracture of both legs and feet



Must know total weight including rigging.

What is the weakest component?

Training is a must.

Special Effects Technician Is Burned in Explosion

- June 6, 2005
- Special effects technician
- Second and third-degree burns over more than 50 percent of his body.
- Pyrotechnics exploded unexpectedly while he was in proximity.
- Employee was hospitalized for four months and underwent numerous surgeries and skin grafts.
- The investigation found that the pyrotechnic device detonated as a result of a short circuit.

PPE, training, programs, and electrical safety are necessary.



Special Effects

- The most dangerous types of special effects involve the use of fire, pyrotechnics, and firearms.
- Many of these special effects scenes are also stunts since actors are involved.
- The death of Vic Morrow, Renee Chen (age 6), My-ca Dinh Le (age 7) during the 1982 filming of "The Twilight Zone: a Movie" involved a special effects explosion which caused the helicopter to crash onto the actors.
- Other types of hazardous fire and pyrotechnics special effects include car explosions, simulated bullet hits, burning buildings, flames, flash pots, etc.

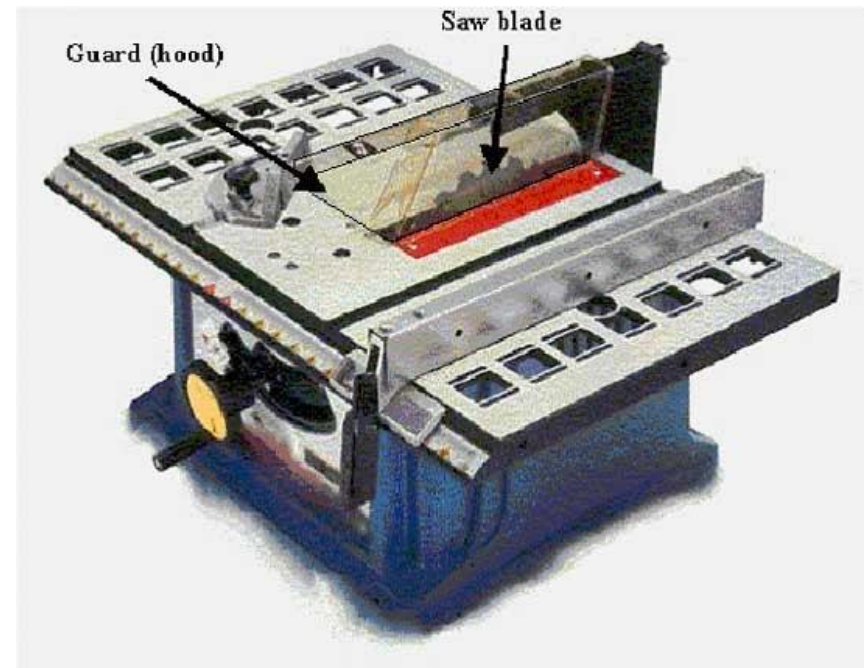


Children are not to be exploited or exposed to unsafe conditions.

- States have child labor laws which are intended to protect child performers and models.
- Infants and children are much more easily fatigued than adults. Late hours, frequent retakes, and excessive exertion are some examples of situations to be avoided or minimized.
- The effects of bright camera lighting on the eyes of children, particularly infants is a concern. Minimize the amount of time children spend under bright lights.
- Young children also should not participate in scenes which, in the opinion of a psychiatrist, would be psychologically traumatic. An example might be a young child witnessing graphic violence.
- Children are not permitted to perform hazardous stunts or be in the area where they are being performed.
- For example, the two children killed during the 1982 filming of "The Twilight Zone: A Movie" should never have been involved in scenes involving pyrotechnics.
- State laws also require that the production company hire teachers for children who are missing school. The SAG and AFTRA contracts specify requirements for number of school hours and working hours, and other relevant conditions. California also requires that teachers have training as welfare workers.
- OSHA has investigated several accidents with children (as young as four) who died in a workplace.

Thumb Amputation

- January 18, 2009,
- The table saw had been routinely used without its guard assembly.
- His left thumb got in the path of the running blade (10" carbide-tip, 50-tooth ripping blade) and amputated his thumb tip.



Cost of Hearing Loss

- “I don't find picking on someone who is deaf to be funny, or entertaining.
- But then again this is coming from someone who is almost completely deaf in one of my ears.
- A lot of times I don't hear all of conversation, or I miss the punch line to a joke, and a lot of times I'm too embarrassed to let anyone know that this is happening.
- I don't want to be treated different, or looked down upon.”
- One Candlebox concert



Fire

- February 20, 2003
- The club burned to the ground in six minutes.
- 100 people were killed
- 230 were injured, and
- 132 made it out unharmed.



Blink – What Could Go Wrong?



Auto hoisted over a crowd during a concert

Resources

- artscraftstheatersafety.org
- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/information.htm>
- http://www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/harts1/HARTS_library/ it has several good links, checklist, safety procedures, and much more
- [The Artist's Complete Health and Safety Guide: Third Edition](#) by [Monona Rossol](#) (Nov 1, 2001)
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)
- Every state has free consultation available to small employers.

History Repeats

- Lights! Camera! Action! was a Health and Safety Manual for the Motion Picture and Television Production produced by the Center for Safety in the Arts by Dr. Michael McCann, Ph.D., C.I.H.
- The txt book is at http://www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/harts1/HARTS_library/filmall.txt
- This is a must read for anyone in the entertainment field. Many of the hazards identified in the 1991 book reoccur today. Many more examples and accidents are in the book.