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Actsafe Fills Gap with New Live Performance Electrical Certificate

Many theatres, concert halls and other live performance venues, as well as electrical and audio visual technicians working in live performance, may be unaware that electrical certification is required.

In British Columbia, the *BC Safety Standards Act Electrical Safety Regulations* requires workers who handle electrical or audio visual equipment to hold a valid electrical ticket. The Full Entertainment (FE) or Limited Entertainment (LE) certifications were developed to meet the needs of the entertainment industries. However the requirements and level of expertise required to obtain an FE or LE are well above the average needs for live performance venues.

Electrical technicians working in the performing arts identified the certification gap, and raised concerns that venues were out of compliance and crew members were at risk in terms of safety and liability. As a result, Actsafe worked with the industry to develop the new *Live Performance Electrical Certificate* (LPEC). The LPEC will cover electrical work performed during the setup, run and strike of live events and work that lighting crews usually perform to cable and maintain a lighting rig or to set up audio-visual or public address systems for live events and performances. Technically, it is work that requires interconnecting plug and cap assemblies and branch circuits.

The LPEC does not apply to the motion picture or television industries, whose workers require an LE or FE. It is required for electrical work performed in touring shows and festivals in addition to theatres, concert halls and other performing arts venues.

The LPEC test was written by technicians working in the industry. The LPEC program includes an online study guide, with sample questions. The study guide will be available online as of January 15, 2011.

The *Live Performance Electrical Certificate* launches February 1, 2011. As an introductory offer, the test will be offered free for the first six months from February 1 to July 31, 2011. The exam fee will be \$50 beginning August 1, 2011. This is a one-time only certification, with no expiry date or requirement for renewal.

Performing arts venues should be aware that unless their electrical and audio video technicians currently hold an FE or an LE, they are out of compliance with provincial electrical regulations and should make every effort to come into compliance. Feel free to give us a call at Actsafe with any questions or watch our website, www.actsafe.ca, for more information.

New date for A Conversation that Matters

Safety and Health. For us at Actsafes, it's all about enabling people to stay safe so they can live healthy and fulfilling lives.

One of the keys to safe workplaces is leadership. To enable the leaders in the motion picture industry to work together towards a stronger industry-wide safety culture, Actsafes is hosting our second producer, production manager and supervisor dialogue.

In March 2010, we held our first motion picture production manager and department head forum. Comments from attendees included: "Excellent! I hope this is the first of many to follow!", "An exceptional opportunity", "More of this kind of thing is needed." For our second conversation, we are bringing members from ACFC, AMPTP, CFTPA, DGC, IATSE 669 & 891, Teamsters 155, and UBCP together to explore the issues affecting safety and health in our industry and to look towards a healthy future for our industry.

Motion picture producers, production managers, department heads and supervisors are invited to join us on Saturday February 5, **11 am – 2 pm at the Creekside Community Centre in the Athletes Village**, 1 Athletes Way at the north foot of Ontario street.

Email rsvp@actsafe.ca with your name and industry affiliation to book your seat. Join us for a conversation that matters. As one attendee at the March session wrote, "it is through industry engagement in this work that a brave new world will emerge".

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Breathing Matters: When and How to Use Respirators

While contamination and oxygen levels govern when to use a respirator, only a proper fit will make sure it works when you need it.

When to wear one

A respirator is required if workers will or may be exposed to air contaminants or an oxygen deficient atmosphere. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) specify exposure and excursion limits that protect workers under *WorkSafe-BC Regulation Guidelines, Part 5*. To check exposure limits for chemical and biological substances, visit their website at: <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart5.asp?ReportID=32895>.

The right fit makes it work

A respirator only works when a seal is formed between the face and the equipment. Where the respirator touches the face, a worker **must be clean shaven**. With the exception of specialty eye wear approved by *WorkSafeBC* for use with positive pressure full face piece respirators, nothing is permitted that intrudes between the face piece and the face, or that could interfere with the face seal.

A fit test must be done:

- Before initial use of each make/model or type of respirator (including dust masks);
- Whenever there is a change in the respirator face piece, including brand, model and size;
- At least annually;

- Whenever changes to the user's physical condition could affect the respirator fit;
- Whenever a worker will be wearing other personal protective equipment (PPE) at the same time that could interfere with fit.

Fit tests must be performed in accordance with procedures in *CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.4-02, Selection, Use, and Care of Respirators*.

Is a Medical Exam Required?

If a respirator is required and the worker has a medical condition that creates doubt about their ability to wear one, the worker must be examined by a physician. The physician must have access to sufficient information to advise the employer. In addition, the worker must bring his or her respirator to the appointment.

The following references provide guidelines for medically assessing a worker's ability to use a respirator: *CSA Standard CAN/CSA Z94.4-93, Selection, Use and Care of Respirators* (Refer to Clause 11, in particular), *ANSI Standard Z88.6-1984, Physical Qualifications for Respirator Use, "Respirator Decision Logic"*, published by NIOSH (DHHS/NIOSH Pub. No. 87-108).

For additional information, consult occupational physicians of WorkSafeBC.

WorkSafeBC Guidelines Program

Section 8.5 of the *OHS Regulation* states:

If personal protective equipment is required to protect against a chemical exposure or an oxygen-deficient atmosphere, the employer must implement an effective protective equipment program at the workplace which includes:

- (a) a statement of purpose and responsibilities,
- (b) written procedures for selection, use, inspection, cleaning, maintenance and storage of protective equipment, when required,
- (c) instruction and training in the correct use and maintenance of the equipment,
- (d) for respiratory equipment, medical assessment of respirator wearers, when required,
- (e) documentation when required, and
- (f) program review.

ShakeOut BC on January 26

Whether it's a natural hazard, technological failure or infectious disease like a pandemic, it's important to have the tools and templates in place to meet the challenges and unique characteristics of an emergency in the workplace.

Higher risk

While the potential for earthquake hazards depends on where you live, all locations in British Columbia are at higher risk in relation to the rest of the country.

Prepare and plan

We all must be better prepared for major earthquakes, and practice protecting ourselves when they happen. The purpose of ShakeOut BC is to help people and organizations do both.

Get involved, spread the word

The 2011 Great British Columbia ShakeOut is being organized province-wide for **January 26 at 10 a.m.** Actsafe is participating in the province wide event and we encourage you to coordinate a team as well.

There are many ways for individuals, businesses, schools, community groups, and others to participate in the ShakeOut, get prepared for earthquakes, and share what you're doing with others so they can do the same.

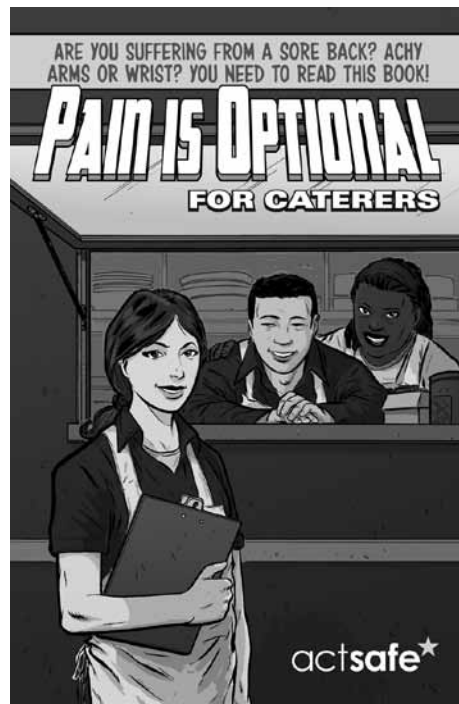
Get registered

Go to www.shakeoutbc.ca for more information, and register your group today!

Protect your business

As a part of your workplace emergency preparedness, small businesses should consider a proactive plan for business disruption. Check out the information available on the Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness website www.ccep.ca.

Actsafe Publishes New Comic Book for Caterers



Shove over, Superman

There's a new comic book in town, ready to save workers from the evils of musculoskeletal injury!

Pain is Optional for Caterers, the latest edition in our comic series on musculoskeletal injuries (MSI), addresses the hazards caterers face at work.

The mobile nature of catering requires the use of trucks, vans or trailers that have limited working and storage space. Vehicles are usually located in close proximity to the production to ensure efficient food service for the entire production team. The resulting cluttered work environments present a myriad of potential hazards for caterers, and trailer locations can present additional hazards, such as uneven ground, slippery surfaces and more.

Get informed to stay safe

Knowing how to work safely requires awareness of the types of injuries that are common for your work and an understanding of why they happen. Recognizing early warning signs allows you to adjust the way you work and minimize injury risks.

Pain is Optional: For Caterers is a 16-page, full-colour comic book packed with information on how to recognize symptoms of an MSI injury and what to do when you notice you may be developing an injury.

A durable solution

One of the goals identified during the design phase was to produce a resource with a long shelf-life. And because caterers don't always work in dry environments, we made it waterproof! You can dunk this comic in your sink and it'll still hold up. Don't believe us? Get your hands on a copy and give it a whirl!

To get free copies of the *Pain is Optional: For Caterers* comic, or any of the other comics in the series, please contact us at info@actsafe.ca or by phone at 604.733.4682.

Goodbye to Ed Brisson

Actsafes is very sad to say goodbye to Ed Brisson, who has moved on to pursue his creative career. Ed started with us in 1999 as a part time receptionist, eventually becoming our Creative Director.

Ed's work can be seen in all of our posters and creative materials, and he's been the designer and producer of our recent series of primers and comic books. Ed shepherded us through our brand transition in early 2010, developing the materials for our launch as Actsafes.

We will miss not only his talents and stunning good looks, but also his contribution as a key member of the Actsafes team and his great sense of humour! We appreciate Ed's contributions to our work and wish him all the best in the next phase of his career.

Follow us on Twitter

For updates, items of interest and other Actsafes related announcements and events, be sure to follow our twitter feed at:
www.twitter.com/actsafes

ACTSAFE STAFF

Dawn Brennan
General Manager

Marty Clausen
Health & Safety Consultant

Bev Pausche
Communications Manager

Maureen Kaake
Office Manager

Jennifer Hill
Outreach and Project Coordinator

ACTSAFE COURSES

For full course descriptions, dates and to register online, visit: www.actsafes.ca

Courses must be paid in advance to Actsafes. Courses may be subject to cancellation. We would be happy to book a private class 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, January 29
Saturday, February 26

Inexperienced:

Saturday, Jan 29 and Sunday, Jan 30
Saturday, Feb 26 and Sunday, Feb 27
8 am - 4 pm

Instructor: Leavitt Machinery
Operator Training

AERIAL LIFT OVER 80FT - \$220

TBA - call to be added to a waitlist.

8 am - 4 pm
Instructor: Leavitt Machinery

Operator Training

COUNTERBALANCED FORKLIFT

\$120 (EXPERIENCED - 1 DAY)

\$220 (INEXPERIENCED - 2 DAY)

Experienced:

Saturday, January 22
Saturday, February 19

Inexperienced:

Saturday, Jan 22 and Sunday, Jan 30
Saturday, Feb 19 and Sunday Feb 27

8 am - 4 pm

Instructor: Leavitt Machinery

FALL PROTECTION - \$65

Saturday, January 15
Saturday, February 12

8 am to 12 pm
Instructor: ER Plus

FIREARM SAFETY LEVEL 1 - \$50

Sunday, January 30

10 am to 5 pm
Instructor: Felcan Enterprises

MOTION PICTURE SAFETY

AWARENESS* - \$25

Tuesday, January 18
Sunday, February 13

Sundays: 10 am - 1 pm
Tuesdays: 6 pm - 9 pm

Instructor: Marty Clausen

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

MOTION PICTURE SUPERVISOR

SAFETY* - \$25

Sunday, February 13
Sunday, April 10

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

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

OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID

LEVEL ONE - \$40

Monday, January 17
Saturday, February 5
Monday, February 21

8:45 am to 5:30 pm

Instructor: Kathy Day

PERFORMING ARTS

SUPERVISOR SAFETY - \$25

Call for training dates.

Instructor: Marty Clausen

ONLINE COURSES

Transportation of Dangerous
Goods (TDG) \$20

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information
System (WHMIS) \$20

Actsafes has an in house computer
station available to those who do not
have internet access but wish to take our
online courses.