

GCSE LEVEL
FACT FILE

Moving Image Arts

Subject content link:
Production Management
Health & Safety



moving image arts

Health & Safety



Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the health and safety considerations when working on a film shoot and how to apply these.



Course Content

When working in Film & Video Production the need to manage people, equipment and locations can create hazards. If care is not taken there may be a risk of serious injury. No film shoot is worth risking injury or death.

So, before moving forward with a shoot it's important that you draft a Risk Assessment. This should allow you to:

- **Identify potential hazards;**
- **Decide who might be harmed and how: think about who may be affected and those who are particularly at risk;**
- **Evaluate the likely risks: think about the chance and severity of harm that each hazard might cause; and**
- **Judge whether an actual risk is likely from the identified hazard and, if so, take steps to remove that risk factor.**

The risks you will need to assess will differ based on what you are shooting.

When shooting indoors with lighting stands, lights and camera equipment you will need to take the following precautions. Reasons for each precaution are also listed.

Precaution	Reason for precaution
Ensure lights and cameras are securely fitted to stands and or tripods.	This will ensure that lights and cameras do not fall from their stands during the shoot potentially harming members of your cast and crew and damaging equipment.
Ensure that lights are a safe distance away from your performers.	To ensure that there is no risk of injury from bright light or heat and to ensure that there is no risk of your performers knocking any lights over during the shoot.
Ensure that all electrical cables are taped down.	This will ensure that no cast or crew member can trip over the cables and hurt themselves or damage equipment.
Ensure that fire exits are not blocked.	To ensure that all members of the cast and crew have direct access off the set or location should a fire or other emergency occur.
Ensure that power sockets have not been overloaded.	This is to ensure that there is no damage to equipment or loss of power. Plugging too many electrical items into a single socket may damage fuses and will greatly increase the chances of fire, explosion or electrical injury.
Ensure that lights are allowed to cool down before being moved.	This is to ensure that no crew members burn themselves. Lights can become extremely hot and pose a serious risk. This will also ensure that equipment isn't damaged. Hot lights may be dropped more easily and vital components such as bulbs are much more fragile and prone to breaking when they are hot.

When shooting outdoors or on location you will also need to note the following precautions. Reasons for each precaution are also listed.

Precaution	Reason for precaution
Ensure that your location is a safe environment for filming in.	Shooting near a busy road, a river or in a busy industrial location may be dangerous.
If there is an evident danger take steps to either minimise it or, if that's not possible, choose a different location.	This will minimise the likelihood of injury to cast and crew and reduce the likelihood of damage to equipment.
Ensure that the weather is safe to film in.	If the weather conditions are dangerous (e.g. too icy, too windy, too sunny or raining) there will be greater risk of injury to cast and crew and a greatly increased risk of damage to equipment.
Ensure that you have the correct permission to film in your location.	If you are filming in private property you will need the permission of the owner. If you are filming in public you will may need to seek certain permissions. You should confirm these with your local council and local police station.
<p>If you are planning anything which a passerby might mistake for a criminal action (e.g a simulated burglary or act of violence) it is important that you inform your local police station ahead of your shoot.</p> <p>You should also inform anyone in the vicinity of our shoot.</p>	This will minimise the likelihood of disruption to your film shoot and will also minimise the potential for public alarm.
If using lights or mains powered camera equipment you must ensure that electrical cables are kept away from water.	Water be it from rain or proximity to any pools of water might cause electrocution or damage equipment.

If your film shoot involves even mild stunts or some action component it is especially important that you weigh up any likely risks and take steps to avoid unnecessary dangers.

It's impossible to list a fully comprehensive list of possible examples but the following lists some possible film-making scenarios and the precautions you could take to minimise risk. Reasons for each precaution are also listed.

Precaution	Example	Reason for precaution
If using a potentially dangerous prop you should either take care to have it rendered safe or use a harmless replica	If your film calls for a knife to be used in a potentially hazardous fashion you should source a less dangerous version of that prop for such scenes. This might be a theatrical prop or a real knife which has been professionally blunted.	If an object could potentially caused harm if mishandled then its use during a shoot may be ill-advised. Safety should always take precedence.
Use of liquids and/or make-up effects	If your film calls for the use of fake blood you should ensure that you use a suitable and safe liquid. You should also ensure that any walkways or surfaces are kept clear of liquids or that suitable preventative measures are in place to stop people slipping on any such spillages.	Fake blood or special make-up applications should not be made from any substance which is even mildly acidic or which might cause harm to skin, or eyes. Flammable oil based liquids and compounds may pose a serious fire risk or leading to injury. In order to prevent falls floors and surfaces should be kept clear of liquids.
Use of waterproof camera equipment.	Use of Camera on or under water, e.g. a portion of the shoot involves filming action with a submerged camera.	The risk of electrocution and likelihood of damaging equipment.

Sample Risk Assessment Form

Here is a sample risk assessment form for a film shoot. In this example a camera operator has to use a specially constructed scaffold tower as a camera platform.

Hazards	Who is at risk	Pre-cautions	Severity of injury	Chance of injury	Risk	Control Measures
Falling from height	The camera operator	Scaffold has been built by a licensed contractor following industry and government guidelines. Guard rails, mid-rails and toeboards are in place.	Serious	Low	Low	Access to platform restricted to camera operator. Camera operator instructed not to lean over, stand on or lean against the guard rails.
Falling objects	Crew and passers-by at ground level	Toeboards have been fitted.	Serious	Low	Low	All equipment secured to scaffold. No loose items allowed. Barriers and warning signs to restrict access.

Continued overleaf

Hazards	Who is at risk	Pre-cautions	Severity of injury	Chance of injury	Risk	Control Measures
Scaffold collapsing	Crew and passers-by at ground level	Scaffold erected and regularly inspected by licensed contractor.	Serious	Low	Low	Scaffold checked before use. Scaffold not to be used in bad weather.

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