

Greetings from the IATSE 856 Safety Committee.

For the last two years, the Safety Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis here at the 856 office. Over those years, we are seeing more participation from the membership and new faces each month.

The idea behind this Committee is to get your safety concerns heard and discussed so we can work together to find a solution. With the rapid growth of our industry over the last few years, unfortunately there sometimes comes an abundance of health and safety issues right along with it. The importance of knowing what to do in these situations and where to turn to get some help is a must.

Examples of a few of the items we have been focusing on lately in our Safety Committee meetings include the following:

1. Working Alone or in Isolation – this has been a concern of a few Departments, most specifically the Security Department. It's a big issue in many workplaces, not just the Film Industry, so we have been discussing ways to make the Employers aware of their responsibility when it comes to this and other policies.
2. Hazard Assessment – the best way to combat any potential safety concern is by using a Hazard Assessment form and submitting it to both the Employer (be it the PM or a Producer) as well as us here in the union office. The more notification we give, the easier it is to get ahead of these potential issues and minimize or completely eliminate them. We have been talking about the best ways to get these out there and used, specifically by departments that are able to attend the tech surveys.
3. Training – what training is available for Members? How can we access the training fund here at IATSE 856? Are there any training initiatives we can discuss with the Executive that we feel might be a benefit for all Members to have?
4. Safety Committee Members – we are seeing more productions implementing a safety committee during their shoots. On our own committee, we have a few Members who have also filled that role during a production. These meetings give us a chance to hear what concerns different shows have come up against and allows us a chance to bring some concerns of our own to their attention so they can be passed on.

We have also started inviting special guests to sit with us to give us insight into their job as well as answer any questions we might have. Most recently, on February 22nd we had Monique Perro come for a visit to talk to us. Last year we had a representative from Workplace Safety & Health come and speak with us. We are always open to suggestions for future guests.

While we have seen a lot of positive changes both with the Employers and the Membership on the whole, we still have work to do, but that can't happen without conversation and participation from the entire membership. Please keep your eyes on the emails and come join us at the next Safety Committee meeting.