

Greetings from the IATSE 856 Safety Committee,

As we start to get back to work after being locked down during the Pandemic, those of us at the Safety Committee would like to invite you to join us as we continue our monthly meetings over Zoom. Over our last couple of meetings, we have been discussing what going back to work will look like with COVID, concerns and fears that some of us have about going back to work and what our responsibilities are when going back into these workplaces.

We encourage all Members of IATSE 856 to make sure they read the emails that have been coming from our President, Nicolas Phillips as each one contains important information and links to ensure we all have access to the same information. There are a lot of documents circulating, the information can feel overwhelming at times but please remember that the only ones that are requirements for the workplace are those that are coming out of the Province of Manitoba. All others are guidelines and recommendations.

When you are signing on to a Production, please remember that you can ask to see any and all policies from the Employer and we encourage you to do so before you sign on to do a show. You are your own best advocate in the moment, take the time to sit and have a conversation with the Employer and/or their representatives. If you are signing on to a Production in a Department Head or Key position, make sure you understand what the policies are and what your responsibilities are to your crew when accepting a job in that capacity. Film Training Manitoba has had a series of Supervisory courses take place June 22-25, 2020 with potentially more coming in the future. Sign up to FTM's mailing list to be notified of future courses. Educating ourselves is the best way forward.

Our next Safety Meeting will be taking place over ZOOM on July 11 @ 12 Noon. Please keep an eye on your emails for notification of this meeting to come out from the office. Please come and join us, it's incredibly important that we all take the time to sit together and have these conversations so we can move forward as a union into the workplace and create the changes we would like to see together.

In solidarity,

Terence Fuller  
Steward and Chair of the IATSE 856 Safety Committee.  
June 25, 2020