

TOOLBOX TALK

HOUSEKEEPING

Good housekeeping is the first law of accident prevention and should be a primary concern of all supervisors, foremen and the entire film crew. Poor housekeeping often can result in unsafe conditions and may also reflect a lack of management attention. **Many accidents and injuries charged to other causes are actually due to unsafe conditions related to poor housekeeping.**

OSHA Regulation 29 CFR 1926.25 Housekeeping requires that 'During the course of construction, alteration, or repairs, form and scrap lumber with protruding nails, and all other debris, shall be kept cleared from work areas, passageways, and stairs in and around buildings or other structures. Combustible scrap and debris shall be removed at regular intervals during the course of construction. Safe means shall be provided to facilitate such removal. Containers shall be provided for the collection and separation of waste, trash, oily and used rags, and other refuse. Containers used for garbage and other oily, flammable, or hazardous wastes, such as caustics, acids, harmful dusts, etc. shall be equipped with covers. Garbage and other waste shall be disposed of at frequent and regular intervals.'

A safe worker knows that work is made easier and more efficient if good housekeeping is maintained. Learning the habit of good housekeeping takes practice. The familiar expression 'a place for everything and everything in its place', will assist you in your efforts.

Materials left on the stage or filming location should be stored in a central location and if at all possible stacked out of the way. When cleaning up be sure that all combustible materials are stored or disposed of properly so as to reduce the possibility of fires. **Slips, trips and falls can be reduced significantly by frequent clean-ups. Make it a habit to remove or bend over all nails protruding from scrap lumber to protect against puncture wounds.** Sharp-edged and pointed tools should be stored in such a way as to prevent injuries.

Each member of the crew has a responsibility to practice good housekeeping in all phases of their work. It's a lot easier to pick up as you work instead of waiting for wrap. The importance of the relationship between an orderly production and a safe production cannot be overstressed.

We can have clean, well appearing, accident free productions only if we really want them and insist that everyone cooperates. Good housekeeping requires constant effort and vigilance to make certain the job and equipment are kept in good condition. **Are you doing your part?**

Remember, good housekeeping promotes safety on the set, improves performance, protects you, your fellow crew members, and the public, and just makes good sense.