

# BACKstage

## Technical Theatre for High Schools

### Safety Terminology

**American National Standards Institute:** Organization that provides the process of developing consensus standards  
Synonym: ANSI

**Authority Having Jurisdiction:** The organization, office, or individual responsible for approving equipment, an installation, or a procedure  
Synonym: AHJ

**Basic Safety Equipment:** Hardhat, safety glasses, general purpose gloves, sound protection, and safety shoes

**Body Harness:** Component of a personal fall arrest system consisting of straps that adjust to fasten around the body; use requires training.  
Synonym: Harness, Safety Harness

**Circuit Breaker:** Automatically operated electrical switch designed to protect an electrical circuit from damage caused by excess current from an overload or short circuit. Its basic function is to interrupt current flow after a fault is detected

**Codes:** Collection of rules and/or regulations

**Controlled Access Zone:** Work area where access is restricted to workers with specific equipment, training, or qualifications  
Synonym: Danger Zone

**Deenergize:** To disconnect from electrical power. Work being performed on electrical equipment and/or tools requires them to be disconnected from their energy source.

**Ear Plugs:** Pliable material inserted in the ear to reduce noise damage

**Electric Arc:** An electrical breakdown of a gas that produces a prolonged electrical discharge

**Electrical Panels:** The National Electrical Code (NFPA 70 110.26) requires a minimum of three feet of clearance for all electrical equipment serving 600 volts or less. The OSHA standard (29 CFR 1910.303 (g)) requires sufficient access and working space around all equipment serving 600 volts or less. For equipment serving between 120 volts and 250 volts, the regulations require a minimum of three feet of clearance. The width of the working space in front shall be 30 inches minimum or width of the equipment.

**Emergency Exit:** Unobstructed route to an outside designated safe space

Synonym: Emergency Egress, EXIT

**Entertainment Services and Technology Association:** Trade association supporting businesses involved in the entertainment technology industry by promoting safety, responsibility, and best practices

Synonym: ESTA

**Exit Sign:** Illuminated sign required at emergency exits to indicate the exits from the venue

**Extension Cords:** Must be 3 wire and are only for temporary use. OSHA states that 1. They cannot be plugged in one to another; 2. Must be plugged into a mounted electrical receptacle; 3. If used in conjunction with a power strip/surge protector, the power strip must be plugged into the mounted circuit.

**Face Shield:** Equipment designed to cover and protect the face

**Fall Arrest:** A system that stops a fall once it has started

**Fall Prevention:** A passive system that prevents or eliminates the hazards of a fall

**Fall Protection:** OSHA [1926.501\(b\)\(1\)](#)

"Unprotected sides and edges." Each employee on a walking/working surface (horizontal and vertical surface) with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above a lower level shall be protected from falling by the use of guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

**Fire Door:** Fire rated barrier, hinged or sliding, that closes automatically to prevent the spread of fire

**Fire Extinguisher:** Portable device used to put out small fires.

**Fire Marshal:** Local authority having jurisdiction, conducts fire safety inspections and oversees enforcement of local fire codes.

**Fire Resistant Clothing:** Secondary protection that does not ignite, burn, melt or drip

**Fire Safety Curtain:** Fire resistant barrier which closes off the proscenium opening in case of fire  
Synonym: Fire Curtain, Safety Curtain

**Fire Sprinklers:** Permanently installed fire suppression system present in most modern commercial buildings

General Duty Clause: OSHA requires employers to "furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees"

Handrail: 42" - 45" high top rail with a mid rail supported by vertical stanchions on 10' or less centers  
Synonym: Guardrail

Hazard Communication: OSHA required workplace program to inform and train employees on hazardous chemicals and materials  
Synonym: HazCom

Heads: Warning given when someone overhead has dropped something or a dangerous situation is occurring overhead  
Synonym: Heads Up, Look Out

Health and Safety Program: Employer's plans and rules for preventing accidents and protecting employees  
Synonym: Code of Safe Practice

Hearing Protection: Equipment designed to protect employee from exposure to excessive noise or sound. OSHA 1910.95 stipulates that workers not be exposed to sound levels greater than 90dB in excess of 8 hours.

Ladder Inspection: Ladders are inspected before initial use in each work shift, and more frequently as necessary, to identify any visible defects that could cause employee injury

Lanyard: Component of a personal fall arrest system that connects the safety harness to the anchorage point; use requires training.

Life Safety Code: National Fire Protection Association codes addressing building occupancy and construction features necessary to minimize dangers to life from the effects of fire  
Synonym: 101 Code

Lockout/Tagout: OSHA standard that requires electrical equipment to be labeled and to remain locked-off until it can be safely energized

Machine Guarding: Guards to protect the operator and other employees in the machine area from hazards such as those created by point of operation, ingoing nip points, rotating parts, flying chips and sparks

National Fire Protection Association: Private organization that creates standards for firefighting and protection  
Synonym: NFPA

Occupational Safety and Health Administration: USA Governmental organization established to create a safe and healthful working environment  
Synonym: OSHA

OSHA Hazards: Five categories are: 1. Safety (falls, machine related injury, electrical hazards), 2. Chemical (liquids, gases, vapors, fumes and particulate materials), 3. Biological (blood, fungi, mold, viruses and animal droppings), 4. Physical (include radiation, working in extreme heat or cold, spending hours under the sun or being constantly exposed to loud noise), 5. Ergonomic (musculoskeletal disorders, these types of hazards occur when repetitive work, the type of work, or a certain position strains the body)

Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS): A method of fall protection comprised of a full body harness, an anchorage and a means to connect the two, designed to arrest a free fall

Personal Protective Equipment: Equipment designed to protect workers from workplace hazards. Employers are required to provide adequate equipment. Personal equipment may be used with employer approval  
Synonym: PPE

Point of Operation: The area on a machine where work is actually performed upon the material being processed

Rigging Inspection: ANSI E1.47. Theatrical rigging systems should receive a Level 1 inspection every year and a level 2 inspection every five years.

Safe Approach Distance: Distance a worker can be from an electrically conductive piece of equipment or energized electrical parts  
Synonym: Approach Boundaries

Safety Data Sheets: Manufacturer or distributor information listing products' hazards and safety data. Must be readily available to all personnel

Safety Glasses: Equipment designed to protect the eyes  
Synonym: Safety Goggles

Self-Retracting Lanyard (SRL): A device that automatically locks at the onset of a fall to arrest the user, but that moves freely during normal user movement

Smoke Detectors: Safety warning device that activates an alarm in the presence of smoke

Three Points of Contact: Maintain 3 points of contact when climbing a ladder (2 hands-1 foot, 2 feet-1 hand). Also, keep your body near the middle of the step and always face the ladder while climbing

Trip Hazards: OSHA [1910.22\(a\)\(1\)](#) All places of employment, passageways, storerooms, service rooms, and walking-working surfaces are kept in a clean, orderly, and sanitary condition

Ventilation: Pertaining to air flow in the workspace. Different types of work have different requirements

Water Deluge Curtain: Type of safety curtain using water