
Graduate Certificate in Health and Safety Management for Film Productions (United Kingdom)

Risk Assessment for Film Productions (United Kingdom)

Risk assessment is the systematic process of identifying, evaluating, and controlling hazards that could cause injury, illness, or loss of property on a film set. In the context of a film production, the term extends beyond conventional workplace safety to include unique elements such as stunts, special effects, location shooting, and the interaction of large crews. Understanding the vocabulary associated with risk assessment is essential for anyone responsible for health and safety on a production, whether they are a safety manager, line producer, assistant director, or department head. The following definitions provide a comprehensive glossary of key terms, illustrated with practical examples and common challenges encountered on set.

Hazard – Any source of potential damage, injury, or health impairment. In film production a hazard might be a loose cable on a walk-through set, a high-fall rig for a stunt, or a chemical prop used in a scene. For example, a prop gun that uses blank cartridges presents a hazard because the muzzle blast can cause burns or eye injuries if proper barriers are not in place.

Risk – The combination of the probability that a hazard will cause harm and the severity of the outcome. Risk is often expressed as a numeric value derived from a matrix of likelihood and consequence. If a crew member is required to climb a ladder to reach a lighting fixture, the risk includes the chance of a fall (likelihood) and the possible injuries (severity).

Likelihood – The chance that an event will occur. Likelihood is usually rated on a scale ranging from “rare” to “almost certain.” In a location shoot on a wet beach, the likelihood of slipping is higher than on a dry indoor studio, influencing the overall risk rating for that activity.

Severity – The potential impact of an incident, measured by the seriousness of injury, illness, or property damage. Severity levels might be classified as “minor,” “moderate,” “major,” or “catastrophic.” A minor cut from a broken prop is less severe than a spinal injury resulting from an uncontrolled fall during a stunt.

Risk rating – The product of likelihood and severity, often plotted on a risk matrix to categorize risk as low, medium, high, or unacceptable. A high-risk rating signals that immediate control measures are required before the activity can proceed.

Control measure – Any action taken to eliminate or reduce a risk. Controls can be administrative (e.g., training), engineering (e.g., guardrails), or personal (e.g., PPE). For a pyrotechnics scene, a control measure might be the erection of a fire-resistant barrier and the presence of a fire-watch crew.

Hierarchy of controls – A prioritized sequence of control strategies, from most to least effective: elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment. When planning a chase sequence that involves a moving vehicle, the first step is to eliminate the need for a real car if a realistic mock-up can achieve the same visual effect. If elimination is not possible, engineering controls such as a speed-limited vehicle may be applied before resorting to PPE like helmets.

Elimination – Removing the hazard completely. In a stunt involving a high fall, the safest option may be to use a green-screen technique to simulate the fall rather than performing it physically.

Substitution – Replacing a hazardous element with a less dangerous one. For instance, substituting a real flame with a low-temperature LED flame effect reduces fire risk while still providing visual realism.

Engineering control – Physical modifications to equipment or the environment that reduce exposure to hazards. Installing a safety net beneath a rigged platform is an engineering control that protects stunt performers from falls.

Administrative control – Policies, procedures, and training that influence how work is performed. A signed “call-sheet safety brief” that outlines daily hazards and required precautions is an administrative control.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) – Items worn to protect the individual from hazards when other controls are insufficient. Typical PPE for film crews includes hard hats, safety glasses, hearing protectors, high-visibility vests, and flame-resistant clothing for special effects teams.

Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) – A documented plan that outlines how a specific high-risk activity will be carried out safely. A SWMS for a rigging operation will detail the equipment to be used, the sequence of steps, the qualifications of personnel, and emergency procedures.

Permit-to-Work (PTW) – A formal authorization that allows a specific hazardous activity to proceed, ensuring that all necessary controls are in place. A “hot-work permit” is required before any welding or cutting is performed on set, confirming that fire extinguishers are positioned and fire-watch personnel are assigned.

Hot-work – Any operation that produces flames, sparks, or heat capable of igniting combustible materials. In film productions hot-work includes welding, cutting, soldering, and the use of pyrotechnic charges. A hot-work permit must be obtained and a fire-watch assigned for the duration of the activity.

Cold-work – Work that does not generate heat or sparks, such as manual assembly, painting, or non-flame-based special effects. While cold-work is generally lower risk, it still requires hazard identification, especially when chemicals are involved.

Location risk assessment – A specific assessment conducted for each shooting location, addressing site-specific hazards such as uneven terrain, traffic, wildlife, and public access. For example, shooting on a public road requires a traffic management plan, road closures, and signage to protect both crew and the

public.

Set safety plan – A comprehensive document that outlines safety responsibilities, emergency procedures, communication protocols, and risk control for the entire production. The set safety plan is often the central reference for daily briefings and incident reporting.

Incident – Any unplanned event that results in injury, illness, property damage, or near-miss. An incident may be a minor trip on a cable, a burn from a prop, or a near-miss where a stunt almost went wrong. Accurate incident reporting is essential for learning and improving safety practices.

Near-miss – An event that could have resulted in injury or damage but did not, either by chance or timely intervention. Near-misses are valuable learning tools; for instance, a stunt performer noticing a loose harness before a fall is a near-miss that should be recorded and investigated.

Investigation – The systematic examination of an incident or near-miss to determine root causes and prevent recurrence. Investigation techniques include interviewing witnesses, reviewing footage, and analysing equipment logs.

Root cause analysis – A method for identifying the underlying factors that contributed to an incident. In film safety, root cause analysis may reveal that a lack of proper training, inadequate supervision, or insufficient equipment maintenance led to a hazard becoming an incident.

Corrective action – Measures taken to address identified root causes and prevent recurrence. If an investigation finds that a harness was not inspected before use, a corrective action might be to implement a daily inspection checklist and assign a qualified rigging supervisor to verify compliance.

Preventive action – Proactive steps taken to eliminate potential hazards before they result in an incident. Conducting a pre-shoot safety audit of all special-effects equipment is an example of preventive action.

Safety brief – A short, focused meeting held before each day of shooting to discuss the specific hazards, control measures, and emergency procedures relevant to that day's activities. Safety briefs often include a review of the SWMS, PTW status, and any changes to the set layout.

Safety audit – A systematic review of safety procedures, documentation, and compliance. Audits can be internal (conducted by the production's safety team) or external (performed by a third-party safety consultant). Audits may cover topics such as compliance with local regulations, adequacy of PPE, and effectiveness of training programs.

Regulatory compliance – Adherence to laws, regulations, and standards governing health and safety. Film productions must comply with occupational health and safety legislation, fire codes, environmental regulations, and industry-specific guidelines such as those issued by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) or the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Legislation – Statutory laws that dictate minimum safety requirements. In many jurisdictions, the primary legislation is the Occupational Health and Safety Act (or equivalent), which outlines duties of employers, employees, and other parties. Failure to comply can result in fines, work stoppages, or legal liability.

Standard operating procedure (SOP) – A written set of instructions that details how to safely perform a specific task. SOPs for handling hazardous chemicals, for operating a crane, or for conducting a fire drill provide consistency and reduce reliance on memory.

Training – The process of imparting knowledge and skills required to perform tasks safely. Training for film crews may include general safety induction, specific instruction on rigging, first-aid certification, and specialised courses for stunt coordination or pyrotechnics.

Competency – The combination of knowledge, skills, and experience required to perform a task safely. A competent rigging technician must understand load calculations, rigging hardware, and emergency procedures. Competency is often demonstrated through certifications, documented experience, and successful completion of competency assessments.

Qualification – Formal recognition that an individual has met the required standards for a particular role. Examples include a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) for safety managers, a Level 2 First Aid certification for crew members, or a Stunt Coordinator accreditation.

Supervision – The act of overseeing work to ensure that safety procedures are followed. Effective supervision includes monitoring compliance with SOPs, providing immediate feedback, and intervening when unsafe conditions arise. In a film setting, a supervising producer may delegate safety oversight to a dedicated safety officer, who in turn monitors each department's activities.

Emergency response plan (ERP) – A documented plan that outlines actions to be taken in the event of an emergency such as fire, medical incident, or severe weather. The ERP includes roles and responsibilities, evacuation routes, assembly points, and contact information for emergency services.

First-aid – Immediate medical assistance provided to an injured or ill person before professional medical care arrives. On a film set, first-aid kits must be readily accessible, and personnel with first-aid training should be identified and stationed strategically.

Fire-watch – A person assigned to monitor for fire hazards during hot-work or pyrotechnic activities. The fire-watch remains on site for a specified period after the activity ends, ready to respond to any ignition. In a location shoot involving a bonfire, a fire-watch would be equipped with extinguishers and a communication device.

Evacuation route – A predetermined path that crew members follow to exit a hazardous area safely. Evacuation routes must be clearly marked, free of obstructions, and regularly rehearsed during safety drills.

Assembly point – A designated safe location where personnel gather after evacuating an area. The assembly

point allows roll-call to ensure everyone is accounted for and facilitates communication with emergency services.

Personal risk assessment (PRA) – An individual's evaluation of their own exposure to hazards based on the tasks they perform. While a PRA is more common in construction, crew members on a film set can conduct a PRA when performing high-risk activities such as operating a crane or handling hazardous chemicals.

Hazardous substance – Any material that poses a risk to health, including chemicals, gases, dust, and biological agents. In film production, hazardous substances include prop chemicals, cleaning agents, and fuel for generators. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations often apply.

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) – A document that provides detailed information about a hazardous substance, including its properties, health effects, handling procedures, and emergency measures. MSDSs must be readily available for any chemical used on set, such as smoke-machine fluid or paint.

Noise exposure – The amount of sound energy a worker is subjected to. In film production, high noise levels can arise from engines, explosions, and large-scale set pieces. Prolonged exposure can lead to hearing loss, making hearing protection a critical control.

Ergonomics – The study of how work tasks fit the capabilities of workers. Ergonomic hazards on a set might include repetitive lifting of heavy camera equipment, awkward postures during long shoots, or poorly designed workstations for editing suites. Addressing ergonomics reduces musculoskeletal injuries.

Fatigue management – Strategies to mitigate the effects of physical and mental fatigue on performance and safety. Long shooting days, night shoots, and shift work increase fatigue risk. Implementing rest breaks, rotating crews, and monitoring workload are key components.

Psychological safety – The perception that the work environment is safe for expressing concerns, ideas, and emotions without fear of reprisal. Film productions can be high-stress due to tight deadlines and creative pressures. Encouraging open communication about safety concerns contributes to overall risk reduction.

Culture of safety – An organisational environment where safety is valued, promoted, and integrated into everyday decisions. A strong safety culture on set is reflected by proactive reporting, visible leadership commitment, and consistent reinforcement of safe behaviours.

Leadership commitment – The active involvement of senior management in safety initiatives, including resource allocation, policy development, and visible participation in safety activities. When producers visibly attend safety briefings, it signals the importance of safety to the entire crew.

Stakeholder – Any individual or group with an interest in the project's outcome, including producers, directors, cast, crew, unions, insurers, and local authorities. Engaging stakeholders in risk assessment ensures that diverse perspectives are considered and that safety measures are realistic.

Risk register – A living document that records identified risks, their ratings, control measures, responsible persons, and status updates. The risk register is reviewed regularly and serves as a central reference for monitoring and managing risks throughout the production lifecycle.

Residual risk – The remaining risk after all control measures have been applied. Even after implementing engineering controls and PPE, some risk may persist. Residual risk must be accepted by the responsible party only if it falls within an acceptable tolerance level.

Acceptable risk – The level of risk deemed tolerable based on organisational policy, legal requirements, and stakeholder expectations. In film production, an acceptable risk might be a low-severity injury that can be mitigated by readily available first-aid, whereas a high-severity risk such as a fall from height would be unacceptable without additional controls.

Risk tolerance – The degree of variation in risk that an organisation is prepared to withstand. A production with a large budget may have higher risk tolerance for certain specialised effects, while an independent low-budget film may adopt a more conservative stance.

Contingency plan – A predefined set of actions to be taken if a risk materialises, ensuring continuity of operations. For a location shoot threatened by severe weather, a contingency plan may involve relocating to an indoor set, adjusting the shooting schedule, or having waterproof equipment on standby.

Change management – The process of reviewing and approving modifications to the project that could affect safety. Adding a new stunt sequence mid-production requires a change-management review to assess additional hazards, update the risk register, and secure new permits.

Documentation – The collection of all safety-related records, including risk assessments, SWMS, PTWs, training logs, incident reports, and audit findings. Proper documentation provides evidence of compliance and serves as a reference for future productions.

Incident reporting – The formal submission of details regarding an injury, illness, property damage, or near-miss. Timely incident reporting enables rapid response, accurate investigation, and the implementation of corrective actions. Many productions use digital incident-reporting platforms to streamline this process.

Legal liability – The responsibility for damages or injuries that may be enforced through the courts. Failure to conduct a thorough risk assessment can expose a production company to legal liability if an accident occurs.

Insurance – Financial protection against loss or damage. Film productions typically hold several types of insurance, including public liability, workers' compensation, and specialised coverage for stunts or special effects. Insurance requirements often dictate certain safety standards that must be met before a policy is issued.

Workers' compensation – A statutory system that provides benefits to employees who suffer work-related

injuries or illnesses. Accurate record-keeping of incidents and risk assessments is essential for claims processing and for demonstrating compliance with workers' compensation regulations.

Public liability – Insurance that covers injury or damage to members of the public. When shooting on a public street, the production must ensure that the public is protected from hazards such as traffic, debris, or stray equipment, thereby limiting exposure to public liability claims.

Site induction – An orientation provided to all personnel entering a shooting location, covering site-specific hazards, emergency procedures, and access restrictions. Site inductions are mandatory for contractors, extras, and any crew not regularly employed by the production.

Signage – Visual communication tools that convey safety information, such as warning signs, directional arrows, and hazard symbols. Proper signage on set can alert crew to high-voltage areas, restricted zones, or the location of fire-extinguishers.

Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) – A safety procedure used to ensure that dangerous energy sources are isolated and cannot be inadvertently re-energised. LOTO is critical when maintaining equipment such as generators, lighting rigs, or hydraulic lifts. The procedure involves physically locking the energy source and attaching a tag that identifies the person responsible for the lock.

Confined space – An area with limited entry or exit that is not designed for continuous occupancy, such as a ventilation shaft, a tank, or a set underground tunnel. Confined spaces pose risks of oxygen deficiency, toxic gases, or entrapment. Specific permits and rescue plans are required before work can commence.

Rescue plan – A detailed strategy for safely extracting personnel from hazardous situations, such as a confined space, a high-fall scenario, or a fire. The rescue plan outlines equipment needs, personnel roles, communication protocols, and medical support.

Fall protection – Systems designed to prevent or mitigate injuries from falls, including guardrails, safety nets, personal fall arrest systems, and positioning devices. In film, fall protection is essential for stunts involving heights, scaffolding, and rigging work.

Scaffolding – Temporary structures used to support workers and equipment at height. Scaffolding must be erected, inspected, and dismantled in accordance with industry standards. The scaffold inspection checklist is an example of an SOP that ensures compliance.

Rigging – The process of setting up and operating equipment such as cranes, hoists, and cable systems used to move set pieces, lighting, or camera rigs. Rigging involves load calculations, hardware selection, and regular inspections. A rigging-specific risk assessment addresses potential failures of cables, slings, or winches.

Load chart – A reference table that indicates the safe working load for a piece of lifting equipment at various boom angles or extensions. Operators must consult the load chart before moving heavy equipment

to avoid over-loading, which could lead to equipment failure.

Crane safety – The set of procedures and controls designed to prevent accidents when operating cranes or jib arms. Crane safety includes establishing a clear exclusion zone, using ground-anchored outriggers, and ensuring the crane operator is licensed.

Electrical safety – Precautions taken to protect workers from electrical hazards such as shock, arc flash, or electrocution. Electrical safety on set involves proper grounding of equipment, the use of residual-current devices (RCDs), and regular testing of cables.

Arc flash – A sudden release of electrical energy through the air when a high-voltage circuit is broken or a short circuit occurs. Arc flash can cause severe burns and blindness. Protective clothing and distance barriers are essential controls.

Ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) – A device that quickly disconnects power when it detects an imbalance in current, protecting users from electric shock. GFCIs are required in wet locations, such as outdoor shoots or near water tanks.

Lighting safety – The safe handling of lighting equipment, which may involve high temperatures, heavy fixtures, and electrical loads. Lighting safety controls include proper mounting, heat shields, and routine inspection of cabling.

Heat stress – Physiological strain caused by exposure to high temperatures, humidity, or direct sunlight. Film crews working on a desert location must receive heat-stress training, have access to shade, water, and cooling breaks.

Cold stress – The risk of hypothermia or frostbite when working in low temperatures. Protective clothing, heated shelters, and regular monitoring are required for crew members filming in winter conditions.

Fire safety – A collection of measures designed to prevent fire ignition, detect fires early, and control fire spread. Fire safety on set includes proper storage of flammable liquids, clear escape routes, and the presence of fire extinguishers rated for the specific hazards.

Explosion risk – The potential for a sudden release of energy due to the ignition of a combustible mixture. Special effects involving pyrotechnics or gas-filled props demand thorough risk assessment, specialized permits, and remote-detonation systems.

Prop safety – The management of items used in scenes that could become hazards, such as weapons, breakaway furniture, or hazardous chemicals. Prop safety protocols require that each prop be inspected, labeled, and stored according to its risk level.

Weapon safety – Specific procedures for handling firearms, knives, or other weapons used on set. Real weapons must be rendered safe, and replica weapons must be clearly marked. A designated weapons

master oversees compliance.

Stunt coordination – The planning and execution of action sequences involving physical risk. Stunt coordinators develop detailed SWMS, conduct rehearsals, and ensure all participants are medically cleared. The coordination process often involves multiple departments, including rigging, medical, and insurance.

Medical director – A qualified health professional responsible for overseeing medical aspects of a production, including pre-screening of stunt performers, on-set medical support, and emergency response planning.

Medical standby – A qualified medical practitioner present on set, ready to provide immediate care. For high-risk activities such as car chases or fire scenes, a medical standby is often a contractual requirement.

First-aid kit contents – The specific items required in a first-aid kit, such as bandages, antiseptic wipes, burn dressings, and splints. Kits must be stocked according to the size of the crew and the nature of the work being performed.

Incident command system (ICS) – A standardized hierarchy used to manage emergency response, ensuring clear roles and communication. When a fire breaks out on set, the incident commander coordinates with fire services, the safety officer, and the production manager to execute the evacuation plan.

Communication protocol – The agreed-upon method for conveying safety information, such as two-way radios, handheld megaphones, or visual signals. Clear communication is vital during complex sequences where crew members may be spread across large areas.

Radio discipline – The practice of using communication equipment responsibly, including using designated channels, speaking clearly, and limiting non-essential chatter. Radio discipline helps prevent missed warnings during critical operations.

Buddy system – A safety practice where two workers operate together, watching for each other's safety and providing immediate assistance if needed. The buddy system is frequently employed during rigging, high-risk stunts, and when handling hazardous chemicals.

Personal hazard identification (PHI) – The process by which individuals recognise hazards in their immediate work area. Encouraging crew to perform PHI promotes ownership of safety and complements formal risk assessments.

Safety culture audit – An evaluation of attitudes, behaviours, and practices that influence safety performance. Audits may involve surveys, focus groups, and observation of daily routines to identify gaps in the safety culture.

Behavior-based safety (BBS) – A proactive approach that focuses on observing and reinforcing safe behaviours while identifying at-risk actions. In a film setting, BBS might involve supervisors noting when

crew members neglect to wear hearing protection and providing immediate corrective feedback.

Fatigue risk assessment – An evaluation of how work schedules, shift patterns, and environmental factors contribute to fatigue. The assessment helps to design shift rotations, rest periods, and workload limits that minimise fatigue-related incidents.

Work-place ergonomics assessment – A systematic review of tasks, equipment, and workstations to identify ergonomic hazards. For example, assessing the height of a monitor used by editors can prevent neck strain.

Occupational health monitoring – Ongoing surveillance of workers' health to detect early signs of work-related illness. In film productions, health monitoring may include hearing tests for crew exposed to prolonged loud noise or respiratory checks for those working with smoke machines.

Noise control measures – Strategies to reduce sound levels, such as using sound-absorbing curtains, mufflers on generators, or scheduling noisy activities when fewer people are present. When noise cannot be reduced, hearing protection becomes mandatory.

Dust control – Methods to limit airborne particulates, such as wetting down surfaces, using dust extraction units, or providing respirators. Dust is a particular concern during set construction or demolition.

Ventilation – The provision of fresh air to dilute and remove hazardous gases, fumes, or dust. Proper ventilation is essential when using fog machines, paint, or welding equipment.

Confined-space entry permit – A document that authorises work inside a confined space after confirming that hazards have been identified and mitigated. The permit includes details on atmospheric testing, ventilation, and rescue provisions.

Atmospheric testing – The measurement of oxygen levels, combustible gases, and toxic substances in a confined space. Instruments such as a portable gas detector are used to verify that conditions are safe before entry.

Lock-out/Tag-out devices – Physical devices that secure energy sources in the off position. Devices may include padlocks, hasps, and tags that clearly identify the person who applied the lock, ensuring that equipment cannot be inadvertently re-energised.

Rescue equipment – Tools and devices used to retrieve injured personnel, such as harnesses, retrieval lines, or stretchers. Rescue equipment must be inspected regularly and readily accessible near high-risk areas.

Medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) – The rapid transport of an injured person to an appropriate medical facility. MEDEVAC plans specify the type of transport (ambulance, helicopter), routes, and communication with hospitals.

Incident logbook – A record of all safety-related events, including near-misses, hazards observed, and

corrective actions taken. Maintaining an incident logbook supports continuous improvement and provides evidence for audits.

Safety performance indicators (SPI) – Quantitative metrics used to track safety outcomes, such as the number of lost-time injuries, near-miss reports, or training completion rates. SPIs help management evaluate the effectiveness of safety programs.

Benchmarking – Comparing a production's safety performance against industry standards or similar projects. Benchmarking can reveal best practices and areas where the production lags behind peers.

Contractual safety clauses – Provisions within agreements that set out safety responsibilities, standards, and liabilities. Contracts may require the production to adhere to specific union safety rules or to provide insurance coverage for particular hazards.

Insurance certification – Documentation that confirms coverage for specific activities, such as stunts or pyrotechnics. Insurers often demand proof of safety measures, such as a signed SWMS, before issuing a certificate.

Regulatory inspection – An official examination by a government authority to verify compliance with health and safety legislation. Inspectors may focus on fire safety, electrical installations, or working at height.

Compliance audit – An internal or external review that checks whether the production meets all legal and contractual safety obligations. Findings from a compliance audit may trigger corrective actions and influence future planning.

Safety management system (SMS) – An integrated framework that combines policies, procedures, training, and performance monitoring to manage safety risks. An SMS for film production typically includes risk assessment templates, incident reporting tools, and continuous-improvement processes.

Risk communication – The exchange of information about hazards and risk controls among all stakeholders. Effective risk communication ensures that everyone, from the director to the catering crew, understands the risks and their responsibilities.

Safety data sheet (SDS) – The updated term for MSDS, providing comprehensive information on a chemical's hazards, handling, storage, and disposal. SDSs are required for any substance used on set, from cleaning agents to prop chemicals.

Hazardous waste disposal – The proper handling and removal of waste that poses health or environmental risks. Productions must follow local regulations for disposing of spent propellant cans, contaminated rags, or chemical residues.

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) – An evaluation of how production activities affect the surrounding environment, including flora, fauna, and water resources. An EIA may be required when filming in protected

areas or near sensitive ecosystems.

Noise abatement – Measures taken to minimise the impact of sound on the surrounding community. Productions may schedule noisy activities during daytime hours, use sound barriers, or employ quieter equipment to comply with local noise ordinances.

Community liaison – The process of engaging local residents, businesses, and authorities to inform them about production activities and address concerns. Effective liaison can prevent complaints, secure community support, and reduce the risk of external interference.

Traffic management plan – A strategy for controlling vehicle movement around a location shoot, ensuring safety for crew, cast, and the public. The plan may include road closures, signage, and coordination with police.

Pedestrian safety – Controls to protect walkers when filming in public spaces. Barriers, signage, and designated walkways help prevent accidents between crew equipment and pedestrians.

Set security – Measures to protect equipment, props, and personnel from theft or unauthorized access. Security may involve locked gates, on-site security personnel, and inventory tracking.

Inventory control – The systematic tracking of equipment, props, and consumables to ensure they are accounted for and stored safely. Accurate inventory prevents loss, reduces the need for ad-hoc handling, and supports risk management.

Equipment maintenance – Routine inspection, servicing, and repair of tools and machinery. Preventative maintenance on lighting rigs, generators, and camera cranes reduces the likelihood of mechanical failure.

Calibration – The process of verifying that measurement instruments, such as gas detectors or load cells, are accurate. Calibration records must be kept up to date to ensure reliability during hazard monitoring.

Training matrix – A chart that maps required training to each role, indicating completion status and renewal dates. The matrix helps managers verify that all personnel hold the necessary qualifications before commencing work.

Induction checklist – A list of topics covered during a site induction, serving as evidence that the crew received the required safety information. The checklist may include hazard overview, emergency procedures, PPE requirements, and site rules.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) audit – An inspection to confirm that protective gear is available, in good condition, and used correctly. Audits may reveal gaps such as missing hearing protectors on a set with loud engines.

Safety culture survey – A questionnaire distributed to staff to gauge perceptions of safety leadership,

communication, and engagement. Survey results guide targeted interventions to strengthen the safety culture.

Incident investigation hierarchy – A tiered approach that determines the depth of investigation based on incident severity. Minor incidents may receive a simple root-cause analysis, while serious injuries trigger a full formal investigation with external experts.

Corrective action plan (CAP) – A document outlining steps, responsibilities, and timelines for implementing solutions identified during incident investigation. A CAP ensures that identified deficiencies are addressed systematically.

Preventive maintenance schedule – A timetable for servicing equipment before failure occurs. For example, generators used on remote locations may be serviced every 200 operating hours to avoid breakdowns that could jeopardise power supply and safety.

Risk acceptance criteria – The specific thresholds that define when a residual risk is considered acceptable. Criteria are often documented in the risk register and reviewed by senior management before approval.

Safety training program – A structured curriculum that covers general safety induction, job-specific training, and refresher courses. The program may be delivered through classroom sessions, e-learning modules, and hands-on workshops.

Job safety analysis (JSA) – A step-by-step review of a task to identify hazards and define control measures for each step. A JSA for setting up a large-scale explosion may include steps for rigging, charge placement, remote detonation, and post-detonation clearance.

Dynamic risk assessment – Ongoing assessment performed in real time as conditions change. During a live-action sequence, the safety officer may adjust controls if weather conditions deteriorate or unexpected obstacles appear.

Static risk assessment – A risk assessment performed before work begins, based on known information. Static assessments are documented and form the basis for permits and SWMS.

Risk matrix – A visual tool that plots likelihood against severity, helping to determine risk levels. The matrix is often colour-coded (green, yellow, orange, red) to provide quick visual cues.

Control effectiveness review – A periodic check to verify that implemented controls continue to work as intended. Reviews may involve testing safety devices, observing work practices, and consulting incident data.

Safety toolbox talk – A brief, informal discussion focused on a specific safety topic, such as ladder safety or electrical hazards. Toolbox talks reinforce key messages and encourage crew participation.

Safety champion – An individual, often a crew member, who promotes safety awareness and assists with risk identification. Safety champions act as liaisons between the safety team and the wider crew.

Safety observation – The act of watching work activities to identify unsafe behaviours or conditions. Observations can be recorded in a log and used for feedback and training purposes.

Safety incentive program – A scheme that rewards teams or individuals for achieving safety targets, such as zero lost-time injuries. Incentives may include recognition, bonuses, or additional resources.

Safety leadership – The ability of managers to influence and guide safety performance through example, communication, and empowerment. Strong safety leadership fosters trust and encourages proactive risk management.

Safety audit checklist – A predefined list of items to be examined during an audit, covering documentation, equipment, procedures, and compliance. The checklist ensures consistency and completeness in the audit process.

Legal audit – A review focused on verifying that all statutory obligations are met, such as workers' compensation registration, reporting of incidents, and adherence to occupational health standards.

Contractor management – The process of selecting, monitoring, and evaluating external service providers to ensure they meet safety requirements. Contractor management includes reviewing their safety records, verifying qualifications, and integrating them into the production's safety system.

Incident escalation protocol – A defined pathway for reporting and responding to incidents, ensuring that the appropriate level of management is notified based on severity. Escalation may involve the safety officer, line producer, and senior executives.

Medical emergency drill – A simulated scenario that tests the readiness of the crew to respond to a medical incident. Drills may involve a mock heart attack, severe burn, or fall, and evaluate communication,