

Implement physical special effects on a production

Overview

This Standard is about your ability to implement physical special effects. It assumes you already know how to use the required materials. You will need to brief people on the elements of the design and the safety requirements and ensure that equipment and materials are fit for purpose and managed appropriately.

It will involve identifying key heads of department with whom you will need to liaise to produce effects in a safe and legally compliant manner.

This Standard should be used alongside any of the standards listed below:

PSFX04 Create atmospheric effects

PSFX05 Create practical fire effects

PSFX06 Create miniature effects

PSFX08 Create mechanical effects

PSFX09 Create physical special effects props

PSFX10 Create explosive and pyrotechnic effects

This Standard is for you if you implement physical special effects.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. liaise with appropriate people to ensure that all relevant safety information for physical special effects is communicated to all relevant cast and crew
2. ensure that safety guidance is adhered to by all people at all times
3. supply pictorial and video test reference to production in line with production requirements
4. employ competent crew with relevant skills and experience for the job
5. communicate scene choreography to relevant people to aid their understanding and safe practice
6. instruct cast and crew how effects will be achieved in a manner that aids their understanding and promotes safe practice, demonstrating elements when appropriate
7. make sure all members of the special effects crew understand their role in the implementation of effects
8. provide equipment and materials for use in physical special effects which are fit for purpose and in appropriate and compliant condition
9. respond to any budget or schedule changes in a positive way, communicating any differences to all relevant people
10. liaise with appropriate people to ensure effective vehicle management for special effects on set in line with production and safety requirements
11. document all aspects of risk assessment and risk management in appropriate formats
12. use reliable information to evaluate the use of physical special effects

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. health and safety regulations and legislation relating to the physical special effects with which you are working
2. how to liaise effectively with appropriate heads of department, cast and crew, insurers and enforcing authorities
3. the means of ensuring that the safety of cast and crew is upheld at all times, both in a workshop and on set
4. the importance of cast and crew not changing or adapting equipment to suit a particular purpose without the consent of the special effects department
5. how to interpret scene choreography, script breakdown in line with safe practices
6. what is needed in order to facilitate successful and safe delivery of effects
7. how to test and record results on camera
8. who to liaise with from production, including the location department, about vehicle management on set
9. the necessary permissions and approvals from relevant authorities and organisations which must be sought and how to go about doing so
10. processes for preparing equipment and materials to create effects
11. how to employ competent individuals or third party specialists to work collaboratively within a team
12. how to respond efficiently and effectively to budget or schedule changes and why it is important

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