

Artificially Created Fog and Haze – Call Sheet Memo

Actsafes Safety Bulletin #10

Artificial fog and haze are commonly generated using a fog or haze machine that releases a chemical solution as an airborne aerosol to produce various effects during filming or performing. This bulletin provides guidelines for working safely around artificial fog and haze on filming days.

PRE-PRODUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

The production starts by considering whether it's possible to eliminate the need for artificial fog or haze. If its use is necessary, the production should ensure that the joint health and safety committee and production safety representative are consulted first.

Only qualified special effects technicians should be used to generate artificial fog or haze.

The production is responsible for communicating safety information to performers and crew, such as the following:

- Possible health effects of exposure to fog or haze
- When and where fog or haze will be used
- How to minimize exposure
- Ventilation procedures that are in place to ensure there is adequate fresh air
- Availability and how to use respiratory protection if airborne levels are expected to exceed the occupational exposure limits (OELs)
- Who to contact if you experience any signs of health effects from exposure

HEALTH EFFECTS

If fog and haze levels are kept below OELs, there are no known long-term effects for healthy adults. However, every individual is different, and temporary reactions to artificial fog or haze can range from having no effects to one or more of the following:

- Eye irritation
- Dry or sore throat
- Respiratory irritation, coughing
- Sinus irritation

If you experience any of these symptoms and they continue after you're away from the source of exposure, report to first aid.

Individuals at higher risk

OELs apply to healthy adults. Productions should take steps to minimize exposure to older workers, children, pregnant women, workers with respiratory conditions, or anyone who may have a higher sensitivity to artificial fog and haze. These individuals should advise a supervisor, the production, or a first aid attendant of any concerns.

When infants (under two years old) are present, the production should take appropriate steps to prevent them from being exposed to artificial fog or haze.

COMMON CONTROL MEASURES

- When artificial fog or haze is used, the number of performers and crew who are exposed to it should be limited. If someone is not required, they should keep clear of the area.
- Safety data sheets (SDSs) will be readily available at the worksite.
- Efforts will be made to limit the duration of exposure. If workers (e.g., camera operators and



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- stand-ins) are exposed for extended durations, additional control measures may be required.
- Areas where performers and crew can access fresh air will be provided.
- Ventilation and exhaust mechanisms to keep levels below applicable OELs will be provided. If ventilation is turned off during filming, it will be turned back on as soon as possible.
- Fog and haze levels may be monitored to ensure that they do not exceed OELs. If the production is monitoring airborne concentrations, the results will be made available to workers through the joint health and safety committee.
- If airborne monitoring is not conducted, then exposure estimates will be available (based on previous monitoring reports, available literature, or professional health and safety advice).
- Appropriate respirators, fit testing, and training will be provided if the concentration or duration of exposure exceeds the OELs. Fit testing is not required when airborne concentration levels are below the OELs and a worker chooses to voluntarily wear a respirator, but training will still be provided.

RELATED RESOURCES

- [Artificially Created Fog and Haze — Production Memo](#) (safety bulletin 10A)
- [E-Limit search tool for exposure limits](#) (WorkSafeBC)

Actsafes Safety Association

Actsafes is a not-for-profit health and safety association supporting British Columbia's arts and entertainment industries. Actsafes provides resources and training to employers, workers, and supervisors. We are always here to provide information relevant to best practices around health and safety in the arts and entertainment industries in B.C.

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