

Hello

Introduction.

It's been a while since I have been in touch, so I have some updates for you all. These relate to an upcoming Dolly and Camera Movement Course, current and anticipated production volumes, safety and accident reporting, and our upcoming collective bargaining.

Upcoming Dolly and Camera Movement Course.

As I am sure you are aware, the Local is running a Dolly and Camera Movement Course which will take place on Saturday 27th, and Sunday 28th July in our training facility. The course is being developed in conjunction with IATSE Local 80, who have already developed a similar course. We chose to work with Local 80 in developing this course to save both time and money and enabled us to offer this course at short notice.

In brief, the course content will include both PeeWee and Fisher 10 Dollies and parts as well as the Panther Dolly, laying track including circle track, dance floor, moves, compound moves, jib arms, cranes, and car mounts including a hood mount and hostess tray. It will also include some background and history of camera dollies, roles and responsibilities of different personalities around the camera, safety, and dolly maintenance.

The course is aimed at new(ish) Dolly Operators, and experienced Grip Technicians aspiring to become Dolly Operators and there will be 30 spaces available on the course. It could also be beneficial to more experienced Dolly Operators that want to go over the course content in a more controlled manner. For anyone considering taking this course I strongly recommend taking it now, as we do not know when we will be able to offer this course again. Although we do plan to offer the course, it will likely be some time until we will be able to.

I do know that some members have questioned whether we should be charging a fee for this course. The reason do charge a fee is that there are some quite large costs involved in renting equipment, and paying instructors and technicians to deliver the course. With that being said the course is still quite heavily subsidised for members that qualify, i.e., those that have worked 30 days in the last 3 years.

As a final note on the Dolly and Camera, technicians that complete the course will have the Camera and Dolly Movement Skill added to their profile on the Department Roster which means

that those members will be identified on the roster. Productions will be able to ask for a list of those members that have that skill in the same way that they can ask for a list of members with any other skill such as Telehandler, so it can offer an advantage for those wishing to move forward in their careers.

Current and Anticipated Production Volumes.

Our current production volumes are lower than I am sure most of us want them to be. This is a global situation, and Vancouver is actually doing better than many other cities, which I understand is not much comfort. One of the main reasons for this is that we appear to be reverting to a more cyclical production pattern. Whereas recent years have seen a more balanced spread of productions throughout the year we're now more likely to see busy and quiet periods similar to those that we experienced previously.

With that in mind, there are options available to make ourselves more resilient including a number of training opportunities. Forklift and Telehandler courses are reimbursable at 100% when booked through ActSafe. Both of these tickets can increase employment opportunities inside and outside of our industry, which can be useful during quiet periods. There are also a number of training opportunities funded by the provincial government which I will share below.

The BC Future Skills Grant can provide up to \$3,500 in funding for short term skills training at post secondary institutions. Details can be found [here](#).

Those of you that are incorporated may be able to make use of the BC Employer Training Grant which funds training for small businesses. Details can be found [here](#).

I am sharing the details of these programs because they present opportunities to increase our skill sets to use within our industry, and to make us more resilient for slow periods.

For both of these programs the best information available can be found through the links posted above. I am not in a position to answer questions on them, but I do know that department members have benefited from both of these programs.

Safety and Accident Reporting.

If you are ever unfortunate enough to experience a workplace accident, please make sure that the accident is reported to Production and WorkSafe BC. This is important even if you don't miss any work time for a number of reasons.

If you do miss any work you will be paid by WorkSafe BC. There is no reason why anyone should incur a financial loss as a result of a workplace accident. You will also receive expedited medical treatment, and all treatment will be covered at 100%. There is a possibility that any injury will deteriorate over time. So whereas you may not need to miss any work, receive any treatment initially, if you subsequently miss work or need treatment your claim may be denied if the injury wasn't reported at the time.

It will also help us to see a more accurate picture with regards to the numbers and types of injuries and help in accident prevention. This is particularly important for members that typically daycall. A lot of those accidents don't get reported, so are not as visible as when a regular employee is absent as a result of an accident.

Please also be aware that we have a member of staff at the Hall ,Michael Chen, who is responsible for assisting members in dealing with WorkSafe BC. His contact details are: 604-664-8948, worksafeclaims@iatse.com .

Collective Bargaining.

I understand that this is a subject that has dominated discussions and communications for over a year, so I'll be brief. Our Bargaining Committee has been formed and has started work in preparation for negotiations early next year. They'll be starting by reviewing the results of the Bargaining Survey before determining goals and priorities. More information will be shared over the coming months through the eBulletin, and if I have any additional information that I am able to share I will pass that along also.

Yours in Solidarity
Matt Williams
Chair - Grip Department, IATSE Local 891
604-679-1571
matt@blackflaggrips.com

A Rising Tide Floats All Boats

Please do not feel obligated to respond to this message outside of your normal working hours.

If you wish to be removed from this distribution list, please email the sender.