



Scheduling

What has scheduling got to do with ohs?

Scheduling has been found to be a major contributor in most of the film industry incidents.

Scheduling must take into account ohs implications:

- Time to realistically undertake consultation and risk management processes
- Security issues – do taxis need to be provided and/or do crew need to be escorted to their vehicles if finishing late
- Fatigue management
- Sufficient and regular breaks
- Turn-arounds (minimum 10 hours)
- Travel times
- Driving and machine operation
- Work loads
- Environmental influences
- Age, action and abilities of performers and crew

If long days are envisioned, you must consider staff rotation or split shifts to ensure everyone gets sufficient breaks and turnarounds. Refer to the MPPA agreement for minimum turnarounds and break periods, but remember that they are minimum's and that you should never schedule around the minimum periods unless it is exceptional circumstances, for defined short periods, and you have consulted with the crew first. They do have lives and families outside the industry, and continually robbing them of any free time impinges on their welfare. Reduced family time contributes to family break-up, which in turn negatively impacts on the industry as a whole. The show may be over in a few weeks, but the pieces may take years to pick up. Travel times can greatly eat into a turnaround, and a 10 hour turnaround can easily become eight hours for a lot of crew, leaving little time to cook, eat and get sufficient sleep.

You also need to ensure that drivers of heavy vehicles are on realistic schedules and that you have a system to ensure they are complying. In some states, it is mandatory that you document your fatigue management plan for the drivers of heavy vehicles, and it is recommended that you do the same for operators on any equipment.

It is also important to build in flexibility in scheduling for cast where there are children or the elderly people involved.

Note: The above is a guide only. It is up to the individuals to check on current legislative requirements in each state they will be working in.