

Health and Safety Report – P&R Committee February 2022

Accidents and Near Misses

On 14 January 2022 at approximately 7.40pm a patron had taken her seat in Row A for a performance in the Stowford Hall. She was informed by another member of the public that her leg was bleeding. She had been unaware of this but then advised the event technician who was first on the scene to apply first aid that she had tripped up the first stair and injured her leg. The casualty had a large cut to her lower right leg just above the ankle resulting in a large amount of blood loss.

Staff called emergency services and received telephone instructions from the call handler to supplement the first aid already being given. Staff and stewards stopped further audience members entering auditorium, and patrons already within auditorium were asked to remain in their seats. The emergency services arrived and the casualty was taken to hospital for treatment and released in the early hours of the following day.

Action

The first stair is clearly marked with hazard tape and the hall is brightly illuminated until the performance commences. The casualty's underlying health conditions may have contributed to the severity of accident. The customer had limited mobility and underlying health conditions and had the seat purchased for her, and this may not have been suitable for her needs.

Box Office staff are to advise customers of the physical limitations of the seating structure when selling tickets taking special care to mention the absence of handrail up the centre stair aisle and the moving along rows to designated seats, and to encourage the purchase of front row accessible seating where possible. The Risk Assessment for 'Room Use – Watermark Organised Events' has been amended to reflect this. First aid trauma kits have been ordered. A RIDDOR report was completed and submitted to the HSE.

The Event Technician was thanked and confirmed he did not require any support afterwards, however staff who had applied first aid had found this to be quite a traumatic event, and counselling was organised for them as a result should they feel they required it.

Visits and Inspections

Play Area Engineering Inspection – MacAndrews Field
Automatic Door Inspections – Watermark
PAT Testing – Watermark, Town Hall and Parks Equipment
Fire Alarm and Extinguisher Service – Town Hall

Parks

The MacAndrews Field wooden play area is rotting and deteriorating badly. The latest Allianz Engineering report has stipulated repairs must be done to the balance beam within one month. The play area has been cordoned off to make safe in the meantime, and referred to the Parks Committee for a decision regarding repair or replacement of the play structure.

Staffing

The new Parks Ranger commenced his role on Monday 31 January, and has received his induction. PPE and a variety of training courses are currently being organised.

Julie Gilbert
Assistant Town Clerk

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk