



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

National Zoo Training Films Collection, 1968-1981

NMAH.AC.0685

Brandy E Hughes

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Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	National Zoo Training Films Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0685
Date:	1968-1981
Extent:	15 Items (15 films; 16 mm)
Creator:	National Zoological Park (U.S.)
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection of safety films was transferred to the Archives Center by the Smithsonian National Zoo. No records of the transfer exist.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred by the National Zoo to the Archives Center in 1999.

Other Finding Aids

[Inventory](#) available.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Brandy E. Hughes, August 2002.

Preferred Citation

National Zoo Training Films Collection, 1968-1981, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Unprotected films must be handled with gloves.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

This collection of safety films comes from the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington D.C. Presumably these films were acquired during the 1970s and shown to employees at the Zoo as a means of instilling safe practices within the workplace. Their specific history and background is unknown. However, each film provides full credits and the distributors and producers are listed.

The training film serves the purpose of educating employees, reflecting the interests of the corporation, and encouraging safe practices within the workplace. A subgenre of training films, is a category dealing solely with safety issues. The safety film is supposed to promote safe living and the elimination of harmful or dangerous working conditions. Originally made by corporations such as auto-manufacturers, railroad companies, and insurance businesses, these films tend to communicate the interests of the corporation versus that of the employee. Frequently, these films tend to place the blame on the victim, shifting any responsibility for accidents away from management and onto the worker. As a result the safety film focuses more on the accidents that occur than the actual safety issues. Often the film presents a melodramatic story of an employee's tragic accident, and selectively illustrates the pain and suffering undergone in the workplace.

Scope and Contents

Fifteen 16mm composite optical track sound films of varying length, all in color except for two. The films were acquired by the National Zoo and presumably used as training films exhorting employees to practice safe work habits and avoid accidents. Each film provides full credits and the distributors and producers are listed.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes 15 16mm composite optical track sound films of varying length. The films are mostly color, with the exception of two black/white films. The collection consists of one series.

Arrangement

1 series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Industrial safety
Training

Types of Materials:

Motion pictures (visual works)
Training films

Container Listing

- Item OF 685.1 Hands, circa 1975
1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 200 ft.)
Summary: Seventies' style montage sequence depicting a woman's hands, as well as the objects and dangerous elements the hands come in contact with. Set to music.

Producer/Distributor:
 Produced by the Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA), Ontario, Canada. Distributed by the International Film Bureau, Inc. Chicago, Illinois.

Performer:
- Item OF 685.2 Feet, circa 1975
1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 200 ft.)
Summary: Seventies' style montage sequence of bare feet as they come into contact with dangerous elements within the workplace. Warning for employees to wear comfortable and safe shoes in order to protect their feet. Set to music.

Producer/Distributor:
 Produced by IAPA, and distributed by the International Film Bureau, Inc.

Performer:
- Item OF 685.2 (should be 3, etc.) Eyes, circa 1975
1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 200 ft.)
Summary: Seventies' style montage sequence of eyes as they are exposed to dangerous elements within the workplace, such as chemicals, dust, and explosions. Warning for employees that protective eye wear, like goggles, is a necessity for safe handling of machinery and chemicals.

Producer/Distributor:
 Produced by IAPA, and distributed by the International Film Bureau, Inc.

Performer:
- Item OF 685.4 Slips and Falls, circa 1970s
1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 200 ft.)
Summary: Seventies' style montage sequence of people tripping over various objects, slipping on wet floors, and crashing into equipment. Warning for employees that in order to prevent injury, they should properly cleanup any mess, and carefully watch out for any hazards or obstructions in the workplace. Set to music.

Producer/Distributor:
 Produced by IAPA, and distributed by the International Film Bureau, Inc.

Performer:

Item OF 685.5

Striking Against Objects, circa 1974

1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 200 ft.)

Summary: Seventies style montage sequence of people crashing into equipment and other objects, which are carelessly left out of place. Warning for employees that in order to keep the workplace safe for everyone, each person must remember to pick up after themselves, and keep equipment and supplies neat. Set to music.

Producer/Distributor:

Produced by IAPA, and distributed by the International Film Bureau, Inc.

Performer:

Item OF 685.6

You Bet Your Eyes, circa 1970s

1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 600 ft.)

Summary: Reviews the dangerous elements that eyes are exposed to on a daily basis, especially in chemical plants and factories. Warns employees to wear protective eye goggles at all times to prevent damage to their sight. Includes the story of a man who loses his eyesight because of his own careless and unsafe practices within the workplace. Set to music.

Producer/Distributor:

Produced by the Vision Care and Safety Products Division of American Optical (AO). Distributed by the Tom Thomas Organization.

Performer:

Item OF 685.7

Eye & Face Protection in Chemical Laboratories, circa 1968

1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 850 ft.)

Summary: Depiction of hazardous situations within the chemical laboratory, in which protective eye goggles should be worn. Includes safety tips, and demonstrates the proper guidelines for the wearing and usage of goggles and face shields.

Producer/Distributor:

Produced by Edward Feil Productions, Cleveland, Ohio. Distributed in cooperation with the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

Performer:

Dr. George Norman Quam, an expert on eye care narrates.

Item OF 685.8

A Breath of Air, circa 1979

1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 450 ft.)

Summary: Warning against the inhalation of hazardous fumes and chemical pollution. Emphasis is on the necessity of clean air, and how to prevent injury to the lungs by wearing a mask in the workplace.

Producer/Distributor:

Produced by AO, and distributed by the International Films Bureau Inc.

Performer:

Item OF 685.9

One Last Shock, circa 1970s

1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 850 ft.)

Summary: British training film illustrating the hazards of electricity. Presents a narrative story of unsafe and careless practices leading to the death of a factory worker from electrical shock. Offers an explanation of safety measures, and why these practices are crucial to the prevention of disaster. Full credits.

Producer/Distributor:

Produced by Millbank Films Limited, and distributed by the International Film Bureau, Inc.

Performer:

Item OF 685.11

Doin' it Right, circa 1983

1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 900 ft.)

Producer/Distributor:

Presented by Division of School Buildings, NYC Public Schools. Produced by Battelle Memorial Institute Center for Improved Education in Columbus, Ohio.

Performer:

Gabe Kaplan, star of the popular sitcom, "Welcome Back Kotter," narrates the introduction. The rest of the film is narrated by Bob Sawyer. Features music by the BeeGees ("Stayin' Alive," 1977). Summary: Detailed explanation of asbestos, the dangers it poses to our health, and the importance of precautionary measures to prevent exposure. These include frequent building inspections and regular health checkups.

Item OF 685.12

Have a Good Day DearHave a Good Day Dear, circa 1970s

1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 650 ft.)

Summary: Detailed narrative about accidents and preventative measures. Analyzes some causes, such as poor housekeeping within the workplace, and untrained employees. Emphasis is on how "we" create hazards within our environment.

Producer/Distributor:

Produced by David Evans, and Millbank Films Limited, an ICI subsidiary. Distributed by the International Film Bureau, Inc.

Performer:

Item OF 685.13

It's in the Cards, circa 1970s

1 Video recording (16mm black/white composite optical track print, 800 ft.)

Summary: Depiction of hazards and accidents at mill factories, due to the improper usage of signs. Explanation of the necessity of "holding cards" in order to alert workers that a machine or piece of equipment is undergoing maintenance. This prevents hazardous situations, which result in injury or even death.

Producer/Distributor:

Produced by Crawley Films, and distributed by the International Film Bureau Inc.

Performer:

Mr. D.W. Ambridge, president of Abitibi Power and Paper Company, Limited narrates.

Item OF 685.14

It Didn't Have to Happen, circa 1970s

1 Video recording (16mm black/white composite optical track print, 600 ft.)

Summary: A horrific narrative story that explains the proper usage of cutting machines and other types of equipment with saw blades. Emphasis is on how workers can safely use these instruments and prevent disastrous accidents.

Producer/Distributor:

Produced by Crawley Films, and distributed by the International Film Bureau Inc.

Performer:

Item OF 685.15

The Industrial Weightlifter II, circa 1981

1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 500 ft.)

Summary: Reviews the correct techniques for lifting heavy objects. Includes a lesson on the structure of the back, and an explanation of spinal cord injuries due to improper lifting.

Producer/Distributor:

Produced by Lockwood Films Inc. (London), in association with Lever Detergent Limited, and Hilroy Limited.

Performer:

Fred Blaney, head of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA) narrates.

Item OF 685.16

Run the Team, circa 1975

1 Video recording (16mm color composite optical track print, 450 ft.)

Summary: Training film for members of management, detailing how to successfully operate and run a safety team. Included are four fundamental principles for team leaders to follow: review accident experience, continue department inspections, safeguard all equipment, and eliminate unsafe practices.

Producer/Distributor:

This is a part of the Safety Management Film Series, produced by the National Safety Council. Distributed by the International Film Bureau Inc.

Performer: