

California Community Theatre

Top Ten (or More) List

Tips for Handling an Emergency (on or off stage, or in the audience) During a Performance

This is a list of suggested rules to post and discuss with
participants in your community theatre

California
Communi**theatre**

Emergencies During Performances

- Stage manager on microphone speaks to audience
- Take a second to breathe and make sure your next move is the most helpful for the situation
- Off stage- our house managers handle the emergencies, calling an ambulance etc.
- Onstage - the director, assistant director or producer may handle it.
- Having a great house manager (and SM) is key.
- Having a plan of action is important
- There needs to be a visible first aid kit front of house, tech booth and backstage
- Cell phones connect us and can be used in emergencies
- Try to handle without the audience noticing but if need be, we have had to stop a performance to handle an emergency. Just be upfront with the audience in a calm manner and explain. They will understand
- Train your front of house volunteers, your stage management, your cast/crew and even your audience (by putting emergency info prominently in your program) about how to behave in an emergency. Your insurance company can help you with materials and advice about this kind of training
- Take care of it as quickly as possible - hopefully not to interrupt the performance