



IATSE LOCAL 52 JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Special Effects Person
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Duties & Responsibilities:

Special effects technicians are responsible for creating the effects on screen in a movie, theater, television or multimedia production. When the words "special effects" first come to mind, most people think of monsters, aliens and robots. Special effects technicians are responsible for more routine effects, such as rain or fog. A special effects (SFX) technician produces visual, pyrotechnic (explosive) or physical effects in order to create a particular impression or illusion in a film, television, stage or video production.

Requirements:

A special effects person has to ensure the safety of his/her crew and everyone else on set. Before the cameras start rolling, local officials may step onto set and perform inspections, knowledge of the law and safety protocols will help when using explosives and effects during the production process. Specific education programs are recommended for one to gain high awareness in health and safety. Other training in various fields such as handling explosives, firearms, high voltage, and other hazardous material and equipment is helpful. Strong communication and presentation skills are an asset, because being able to show such skills during the interview process proves personal responsibility and willingness to collaborate with others. The head of the entire special effects team works closely with the production designer and art director. The supervisor plans a special effects scene and presents it to the director, in hope that he/she will be pleased with the results. Experience in photography may be an advantage in this job because as the supervisor, he/she has to plan the camera angles when shooting special effects scenes. Starting young allows one to absorb all the information and experience you can get and apply them to becoming a special effects artist.