

Mural Routes

Health and Safety for Mural Artists

2019

Any mural site comes with risks

- Working at heights (ladders, lifts, scaffolding...)
- Dealing with traffic and public streets
- Handling with hazardous materials (paints, aerosols, solvents...)
- Working with dangerous equipment and tools (sanders, drills...)
- Managing weather (heat stroke, sunburn, dehydration)

It is your responsibility to practise risk management to stay safe and healthy on site!

Risk Management:

The art of looking into the future, recognizing potential problems and putting steps in place to avoid those problems or to minimize their impact

As a “worker” you have:

1 | The right to know

- Right to know the dangers of your worksite and how to manage them
- Right to proper training on how to handle equipment and tools

2 | The right to refuse

- Right to refuse unsafe work
- If you feel a particular task is unsafe or that you are unequipped to safely perform it, it is your right to have your concerns addressed by a supervisor

3 | The right to participate

- Right to be an active participant in your own health and safety through a Health and Safety Commission or representative

Staying safe with a clean worksite

- Trips, slips and falls can be DEADLY! Always keep the site tidy underfoot
 - Clean away garbage, debris, old brick, plants, etc.
 - Wipe up spills or mark them with pylons
 - Clear away broken bottles, glass, needles and other sharp or biohazardous materials with a broom, dust pan and sturdy work gloves. Deposit in puncture proof container
 - Keep paint, trays, tools, etc neatly arranged and always ensure a clear path with materials off to one side

Staying safe with chemicals

- Be aware of major inhalation hazards (graffiti removers, paint strippers and anything containing *Isocyanate*)
 - ALWAYS wear a mask or other breathing protection device.
- Make sure to properly clean brushes, trays and YOUR HANDS, especially before eating or leaving the site



Staying safe with chemicals

- Always keep paints, strippers, and other chemicals clearly marked and/or in original containers whenever possible
- Read and follow the WHMIS instructions on all labels
- Every site must have all applicable Material Safety Data Sheets on hand
- [WHMIS Video](#)



	Exploding bomb (for explosion or reactivity hazards)		Flame (for fire hazards)		Flame over circle (for oxidizing hazards)
	Gas cylinder (for gases under pressure)		Corrosion (for corrosive damage to metals, as well as skin, eyes)		Skull and Crossbones (can cause death or toxicity with short exposure to small amounts)
	Health hazard (may cause or suspected of causing serious health effects)		Exclamation mark (may cause less serious health effects or damage the ozone layer*)		Environment* (may cause damage to the aquatic environment)
	Biohazardous Infectious Materials (for organisms or toxins that can cause diseases in people or animals)				

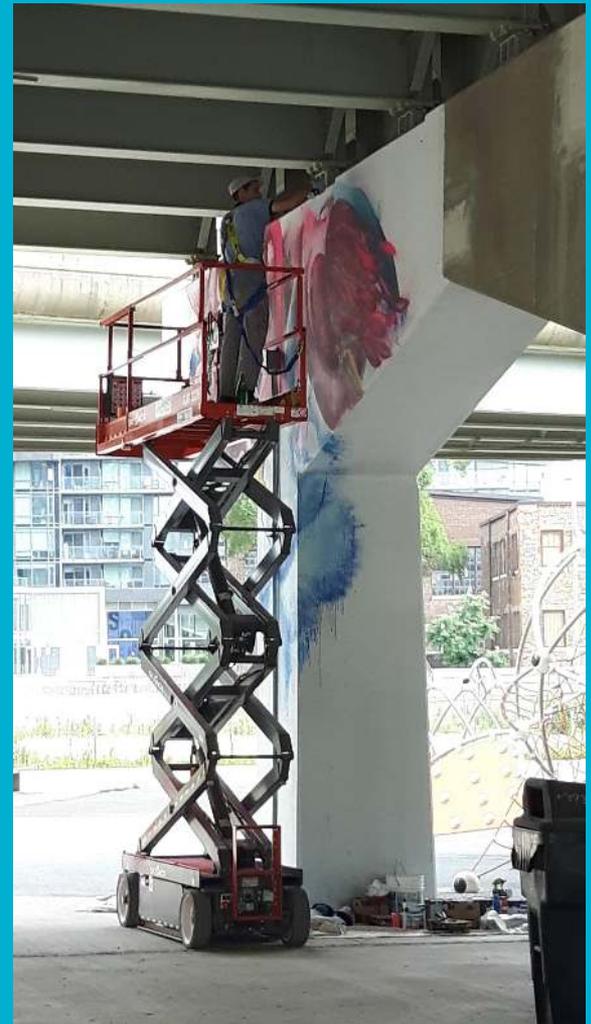
* The GHS system also defines an Environmental hazards group. This group (and its classes) was not adopted in WHMIS 2015. However, you may see the environmental classes listed on labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDSs). Including information about environmental hazards is allowed by WHMIS 2015.

Staying safe outside

- Always apply minimum spf 30 sunscreen 30 minutes before going outside and reapply every few hours
- Find a wide brimmed hat that will protect both your face and the back of your neck
- Keep a water bottle on you and refill every two hours (with water not coffee/pop). If you are thirsty, your body is already dehydrated!
- Monitor yourself and your coworkers for signs of heatstroke (headache, dizziness, hot and sweatless skin, weakness, nausea, rapid breathing)
- Keep an eye on the sky for signs of lightning or encroaching storms
- Be aware of risks from insects or plants (ivy, thorns, tick bites, mosquitos...)

Staying safe up high

- All scaffolding **MUST** be properly assembled by trained individuals with safety rails, proper planking, toe rails, etc.
- Anyone working with feet more than 6 feet from the ground must have **fall arrest training and equipment** (full body harness- properly inspected and installed with a secure mounting point, hard hat, tie-downs for tools) and anyone on the ground below must have hardhats and close-toed shoes



(Don't Do This)

Can you spot what this artist is missing? Is he in danger?



Staying safe up high

- All ladders must be placed on level ground and fully locked into place. Never hyper extend from a ladder or stand/sit on top rung.
- [Working at heights video](#)
- **All artists working at heights must have completed a certified working at heights training course**



Other Risks



- Cars kill. Always wear a high-visibility safety vest when working close to streets, train tracks or parking lots
- When working in a public space, always be aware of other people and any threats they may pose to you
- Muscle and back strain can be avoided with awareness of repetitive strain, avoiding overextension and a planned out job site



Other Risks



- Always be aware of safe practises when handling heavy or sharp equipment. Sanders, drills, saws, etc. Even scissors can be dangerous if misused
- Every worksite must have: first aid kit, all necessary safety equipment, emergency contact/phone, and Material Safety Data sheets
- You are more likely to be hurt when you're rushing, tired or distracted. Don't think "Oh it won't happen to me". Be aware of your surroundings, your equipment and yourself.

Risk Management: PPE

A mural artist's Personal Protective Equipment includes:

For Scraping, sanding, airbrushing water-based paint	Particulate mask or respirator with pink particulate filters, goggles
For spray painting	Respirator with charcoal filters, nitrile gloves or green gloves or barrier cream, goggles
For setting up or taking down scaffolding	CSA approved safety boots/shoes, harnesses, lanyards, lifeline, rope grabs, anchors, hard hats.
For working at a jobsite with scaffolding	Hard hats, safety boots/safety shoes, tie-line for tools
For working in a high traffic area	High-Vis vests, traffic cones
For all job sites	Purell, sunscreen, hand cleaner, closed-toed shoes, work gloves

More Resources

- [Health and Safety Awareness](#)
- [References for Artists](#)
- [The Safety Man](#)
- Mural Production Handbook
- [The Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- [Workplace Safety and Insurance Board](#)



