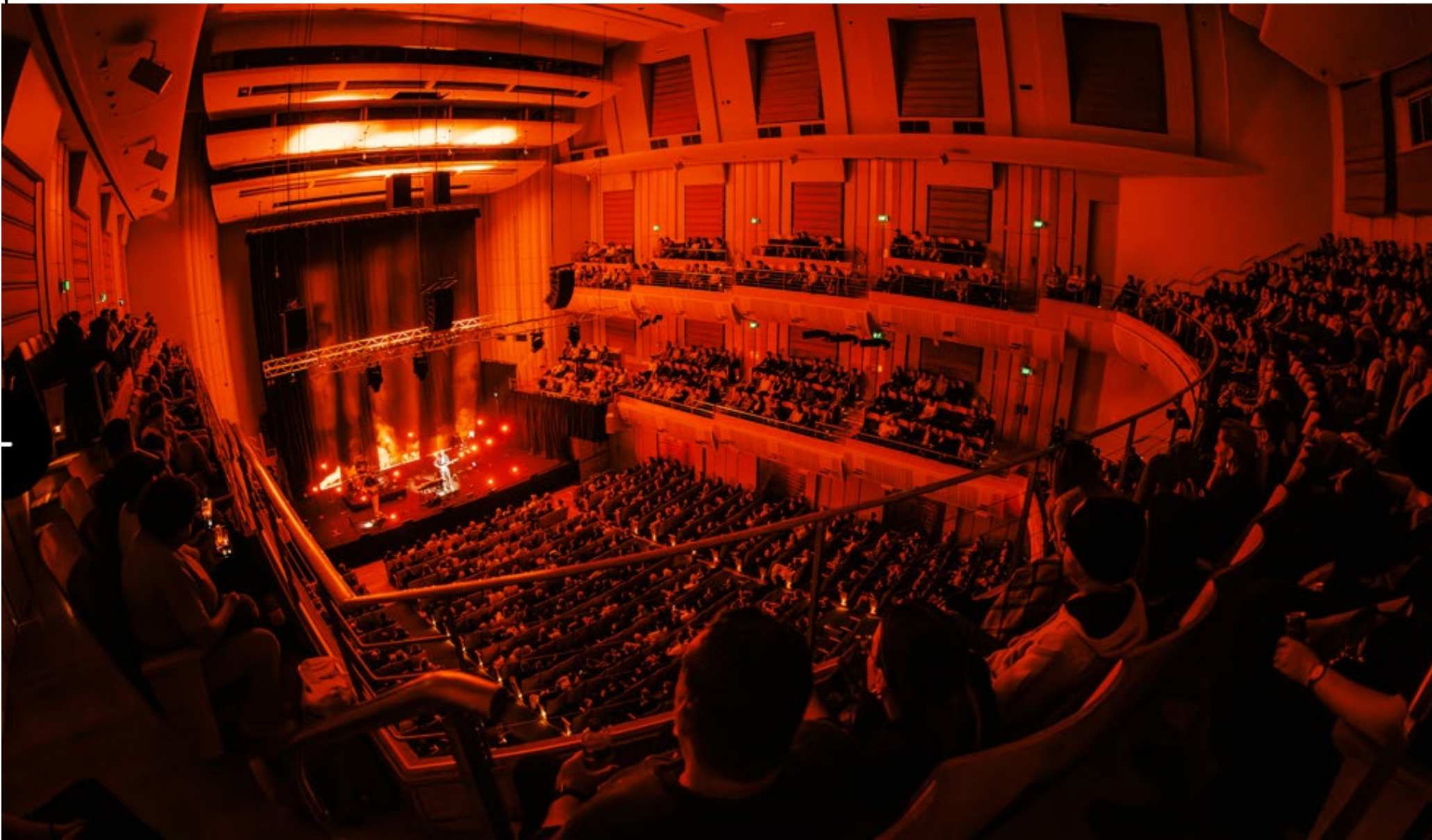




ACT Conference 2024

“Don’t Break a Leg”

Tim Cramsie



CITY RECITAL HALL





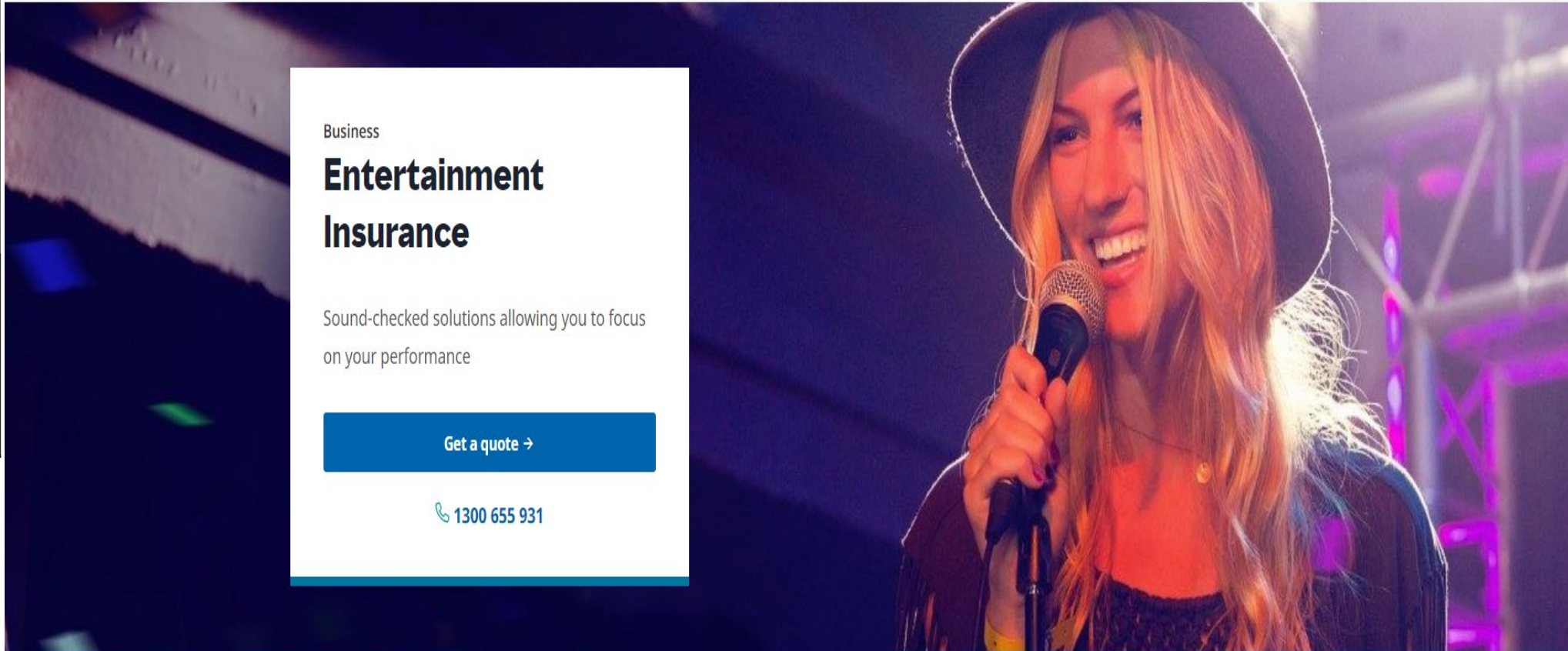


Strategic sound. City Recital Hall transforms with d&b Soundscape.



Session Outcomes

- For members of Management & Production Committees
 - An overview of decision-making processes to ‘stop a show’
 - What Pressures might you be under at the time
 - Can we be better prepared for a ‘show stop’?
- For Independent Practitioners
 - Understanding how a ‘show stop’ process works
 - How you can participate in keeping everyone safe
- For Everyone
 - Current Insurance Claim Data
 - Practical Risk Management Strategies
 - Opportunity for Q&A with Simon Calabrese



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George Ellis is at Olympic Stadium Sydney.

5h · Sydney · 🌐



24 years ago today, I had the great privilege to conduct the Olympic Anthem performed by the [Sydney Symphony Orchestra](#) and the Millennium Choir in my native language of Greek at the Opening Ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games 2000. An unforgettable memory.





Historical Overview



Tim Cramsie

As a point of interest Maestro, I'm researching a presentation to Community Theatre Groups on Emergency Show Stop procedures next week and ill be again referring to the cauldron raising pause.....

48m

Like

Reply



George Ellis

Tim Cramsie That was quite a moment!!!

44m

Like

Reply



Tim Cramsie

George Ellis According to the technical forums George...about 3 (minutes)...!

42m

Like

Reply



Tim Cramsie

Had you finished playing by the time that was supposed to complete?

Historical Overview



George Ellis

Tim Cramsie It's a long story! But to summarise, yes I had finished the pieces I conducted. I was supposed to walk off stage after I finished. But circumstances (I can explain) meant I stayed on stage and witnessed the whole drama unfold. It was so tense! But when the cauldron started again, everyone started breathing again. I was right there. Unforgettable!

24m [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Tim Cramsie

It's the kind of adrenaline situation that keeps us doing (and attending!) Live Performances. I'm very glad you didn't have to do an unrehearsed "Da Capo"

21m [Like](#) [Reply](#)



George Ellis

Tim Cramsie Yes!

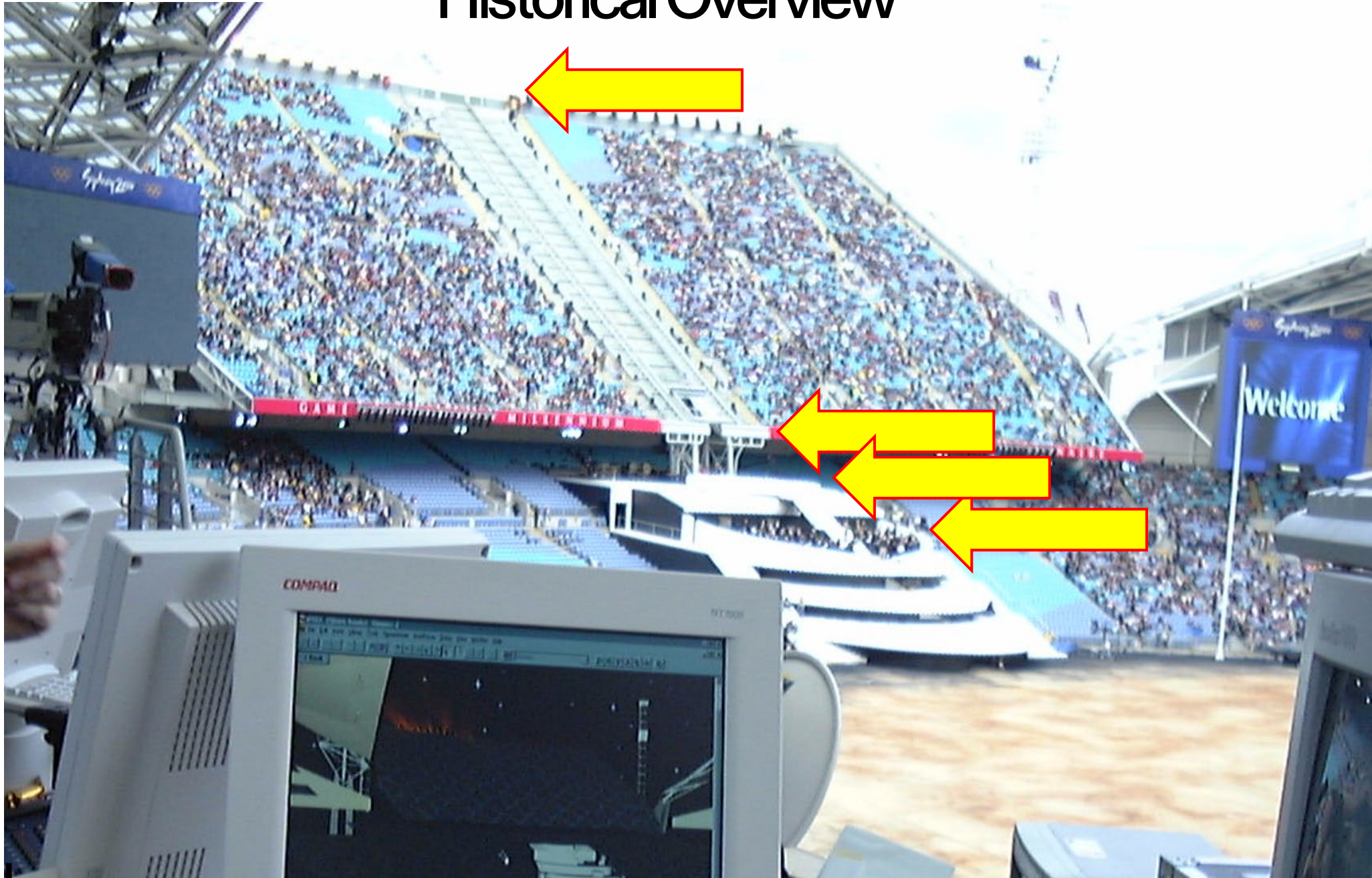
19m [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Edited](#)

Historical Overview

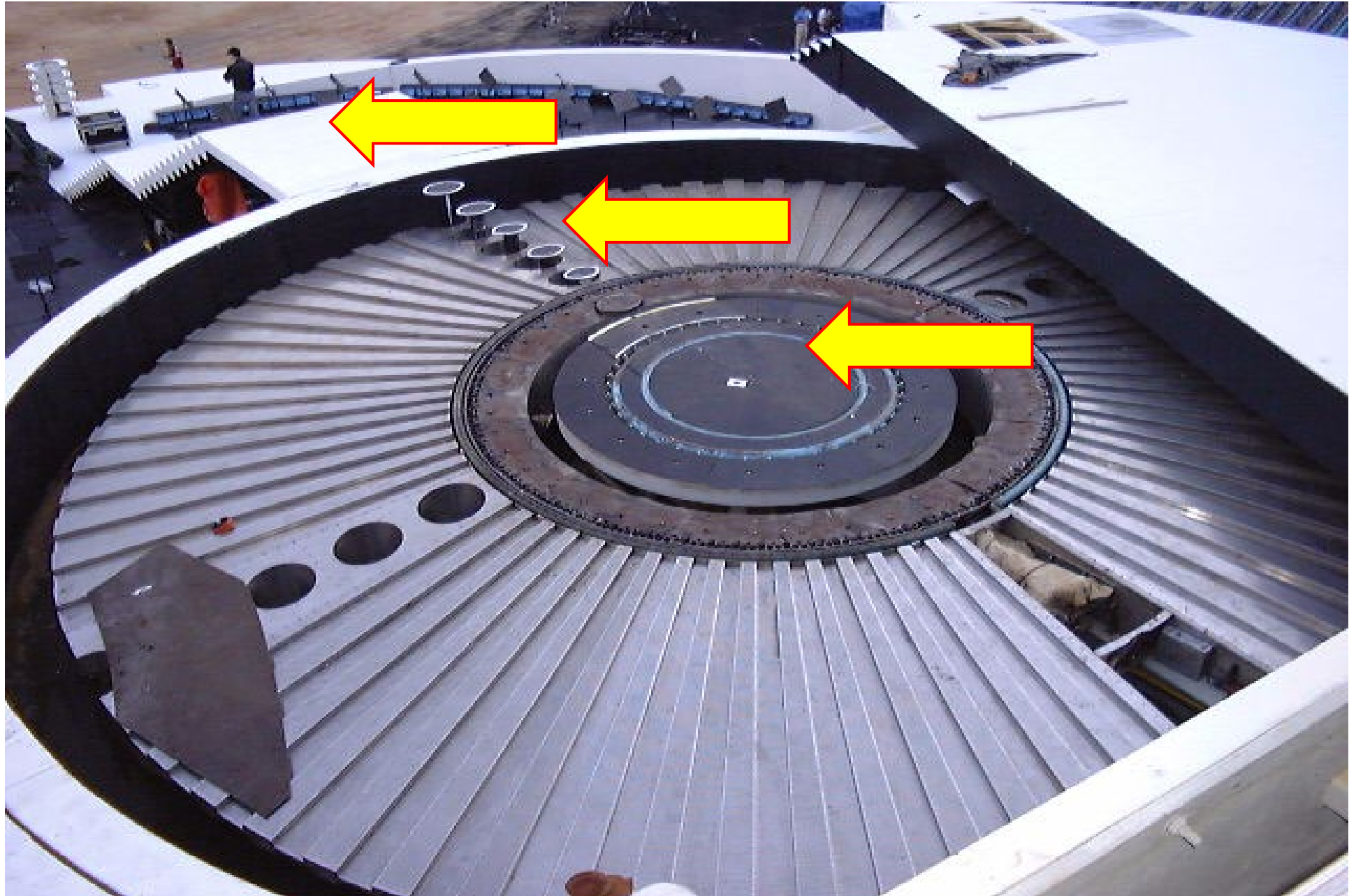


**CITY
RECITAL
HALL**

Historical Overview



Historical Overview



Historical Overview

The ceremony was unfolding as planned, in a spectacular riot of colour and sound. The stadium was abuzz with thousands of excited athletes, hundreds of thousands of spectators, and a global audience of more than two billion people.

Cathy Freeman emerged to light the cauldron. She took her position, lowered her torch and watched as flames took hold in a circle around her.

Historical Overview



Historical Overview

She stood, hand aloft, as the ring of fire began its grand ascension, leaving water cascading all around her.

And she stood motionless.....

when the conveyor ground to a halt.

Historical Overview*

The machines talked to each other wirelessly and were supposed to verify all the safety latches and locks were working properly before the mechanism "handed the cauldron off" from one stage to the long upper ramp....

The ceremony had been planned to the second.....

There was a finite amount of gas to keep the whole thing alight.

Historical Overview



Historical Overview*

The fact of the matter was, mechanically, the machines were working; the safeties were fine.

They just could not talk to each other.

We were worried about Cathy.

Historical Overview*

One saving grace was she was wearing IEMs so SM told her not to move.....

She stood there motionless as Peter and Rob rebooted the control computers.

Finally, one of them made that call that the mechanicals were sound and they should just proceed.

Historical Overview



**CITY
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Show Stop Procedures

- In this scenario, there's a very clear reason why the show might have been about to stop....
- Mechanical Failure or
- Risk of injury to Cathy Freeman

Show Stop Procedures

- 10 years ago, this scenario began a discussion around “what” our decision-making process for “when” & “why” we might need to stop the show
- The reasons for stopping the show are Varied
 - Pressures in play:
 - Risk Factors?
 - Are we prepared?
 - Do we have the resources?
 - Are we actually in control?

Show Stop Procedures

- 10 years ago, this scenario began a discussion around “what” our decision-making process for “when” & “why” we might need to stop the show
- The reasons for stopping the show are Varied
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Historical Overview

- What might be some reasons to cause us to make a “show stop” decision:

Historical Overview

- The reasons for stopping the show will be varied:
 - Building Fire & Smoke Alarms
 - Real
 - Accidental
 - Flooding (building infrastructure)
 - Performance Mechanical Failure / Malfunction
 - Physical Incident
 - Fall
 - Collapse
 - Medical Episode
 - Gas Leaks
 - Civil Unrest
 - Terrorist Attack
 - Blackout / Power Failure

Historical Overview

- Who makes the decision?

Show Stop Procedures

- How many of us are in control of our own Venues?
 - Typically, there will be 3 modes:
 - Sole Use (Your own Venue)
 - Venue Ownership runs each performance
 - A Shared Model

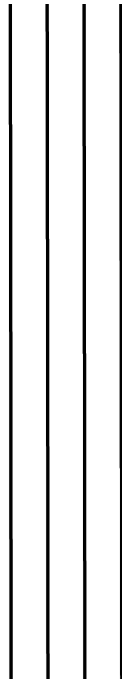


Show Stop Procedures

- How many of us are in control of our own Venues?
 - Typically there will be 3 modes:
 - Sole Use (Your own Venue)
 - You have keys
 - You run all venue systems
 - You have access to emergency infrastructure
 - You make decisions on whether to open or not
 - Venue Ownership runs each performance
 - City Recital Hall Model
 - You are the venue hirer but also paying for Venue staff
 - FOH Manager, Duty Technician (TOD), Lx & Ax Techs and crew, Bar Manager,
 - You may have responsibility for your own people
 - Orchestra Manager gets briefed and the band will follow them over a cliff
 - A Shared Model
 - Caretaker, Box Office and FOH Manager
 - You provide, Ushers, F&B Volunteers, Program Sellers, Stage Manger & Crews
 - Your own techs
 - Performers and musicians

Show Stop Procedures

- This scenario began a discussion around our decision-making process for “when” to stop the show
- The reasons (“why”) for stopping the show are Varied
 - Pressures in play:
 - Risk Factors?
 - Are we prepared?
 - Do we have the resources?
 - Are we actually in control?



Historical Overview

- Pressures in play:
 - Risk Factors
 - Will someone be killed or injured?
 - Will there be damaged to equipment or property?
 - Will the show be able to be restarted or is that it for the night?
 - How much \$ will be lost
 - Are we insured for this?
 - Our Reputational Risk?
 - Are we prepared?
 - Do we have an established process?
 - Do we have a script ready to cover this scenario? Where is it?
 - Who makes the call? The Venue? Us? Has this even been discussed?
 - Do we have an Assembly point and does anyone know where it is?
 - Do we have a process for sheltering in place?
 - Will someone call 000? What do we tell them?
 - Have we ever done an emergency evacuation drill?
 - Do we have the resources?
 - What are our communications systems?
 - 2-way radios?
 - Show Comms?
 - WhatsApp Groups?
 - Do we have stand-alone PA access?
 - Do we have portable Bull Horns?

Show Stop Procedures

- In the Olympic Opening Ceremony situation:
- The Show Producers HAD control
 - They had a decision to make
 - They restarted systems
 - They looked at the available information
 - They took the time (even under that pressure) to make a safe decision
 - We may be in a situation where the decision is made for us

Case Study – City Recital Hall

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CITY RECITAL HALL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN



Photo credit – Jesse Gleeson

CITY RECITAL HALL
EMERGENCY RESPONSE &
EVACUATION PROCEDURES



CITY
RECITAL
HALL

Version 1 – February 2024

Emergency Evacuation Documentation

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Don't Break a Leg

- What can WE do?
 - Request participation in your Venue's Emergency Response Process
 - Show Stop Scripts & Announcements
 - Draw up a Basic "what if" process
 - Draw Up a Show Mode White Board
 - Setup a WhatsApp Emergency Group on your phones
 - Know where your Emergency Meeting Points are
 - Understand the best response may be to stay in place

Show Stop Script

Announcement to Auditorium

Your attention please.

This Alert Tone is part of the Emergency Warning System.

Performers, please leave the stage area.

Audience members please await further instructions from City Recital Hall staff.

[Repeat]

Thankyou.

Adjust, or instruct the Lighting Operator, for Stage and Auditorium lighting to 100% or use the Stage Management Desk controls.

“What If....”

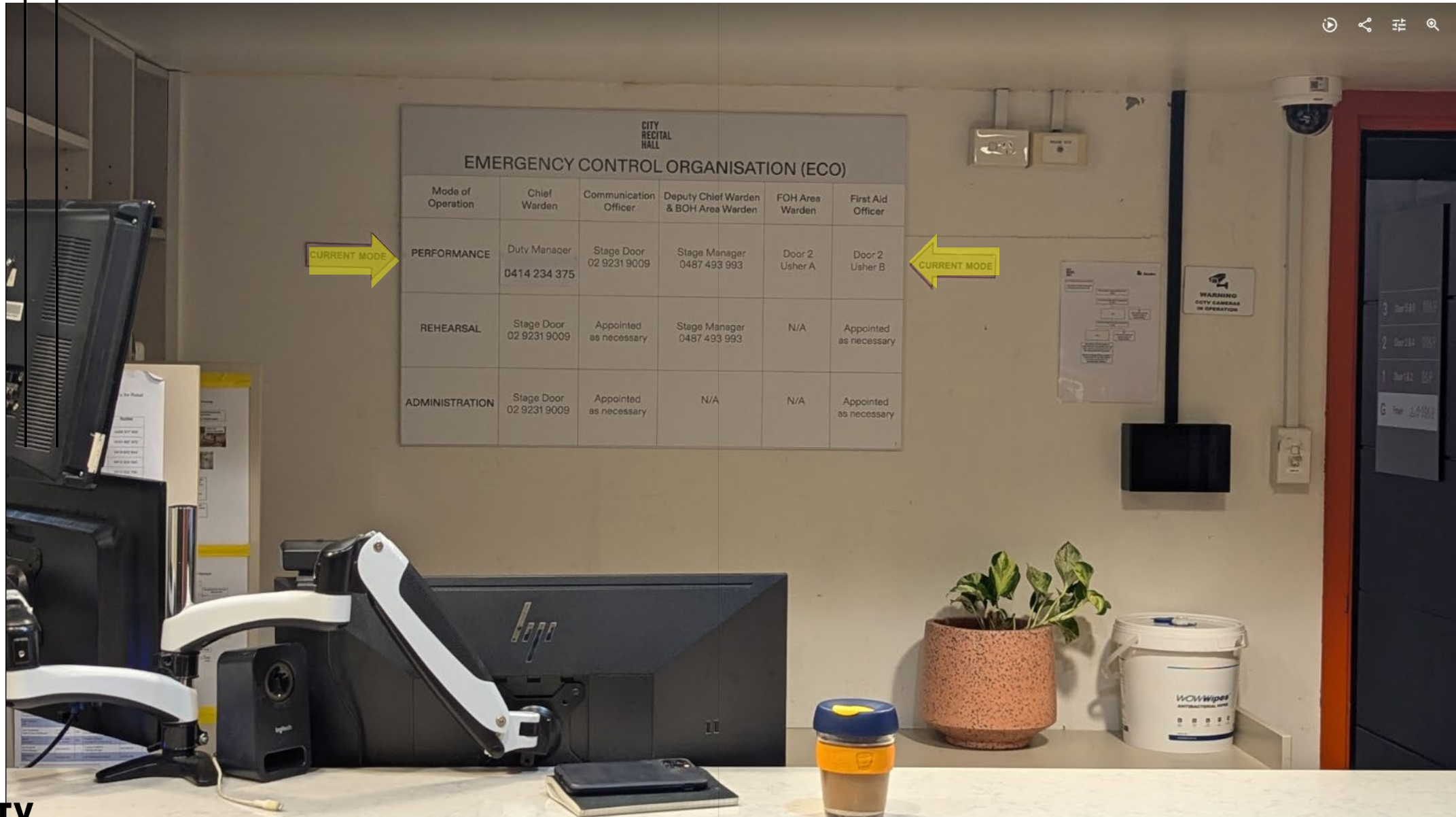
On hearing the Alert Tone (BEEP... BEEP...BEEP):

- Chief Warden makes a Public Address announcement that an evacuation may be needed.
- All staff cease work and switch to the designated emergency radio channel / WhatsApp Phone group and standby for instructions from the Chief Warden.
- Designated Wardens are to put on identifying caps and vests.
- Staff members with access to technical equipment commence safe shutdown of any non-essential systems.
- Secure valuables / important information.

On hearing the evacuation signal e.g., fire alarm, Evacuation Tone (WOOP... WOOP...WOOP) or verbal advice from the Chief Warden/Area Warden:

- Follow the instructions of Wardens.
- If there is no danger to yourself, secure your area.
- Assist any person in immediate danger if safe to do so.
- Proceed to the designated Assembly Area – do not use lifts.
- Await further instructions from the Chief Warden/Wardens/Emergency Services.
- Do not re-enter the area/building until given the ‘All Clear’ by the Chief Warden

What “Mode” are we in?



Emergency Control Organisation

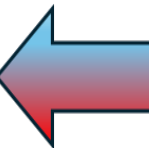
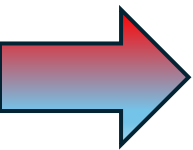
EMERGENCY CONTROL ORGANISATION (ECO) City Recital Hall					
Mode of Operation	Chief Warden	Communication Officer	Deputy Chief Warden & BOH Area Warden	FOH Area Warden	First Aid Officer
PERFORMANCE (Public on Site)	Duty Manager	Stage Door	Stage Manager	Door 2 Usher A	Door 2 Usher B
REHEARSAL (Client on site)	Stage Door	Appointed as necessary	Stage Manager	N/A	Appointed as necessary
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Emergency Scenarios

Civil Disruption / Protests



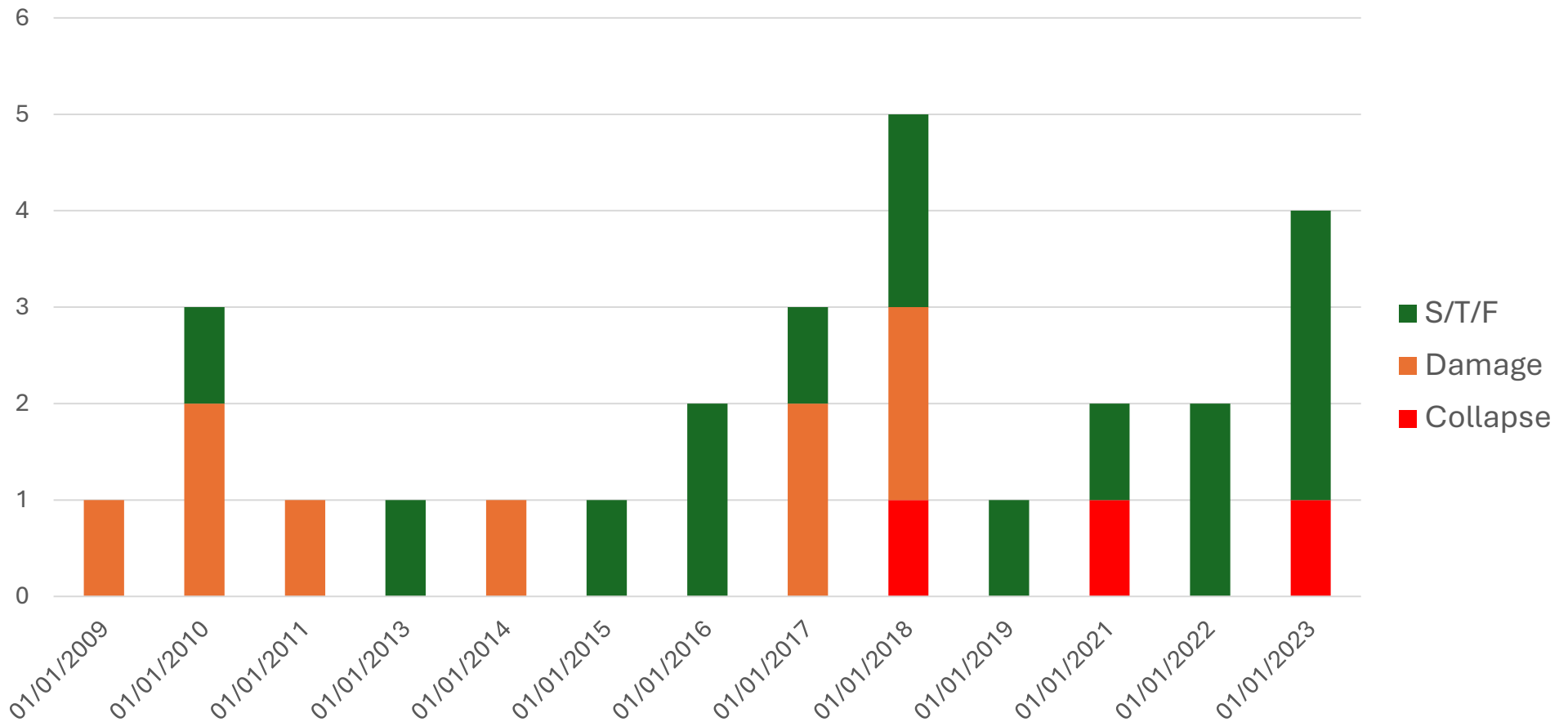
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Don't Break a Leg

- S/T/F = Slips, Trips & Falls
- Damage = Damage to Property or Items
- Collapse = Damage from Falling item (Scenery / similar)

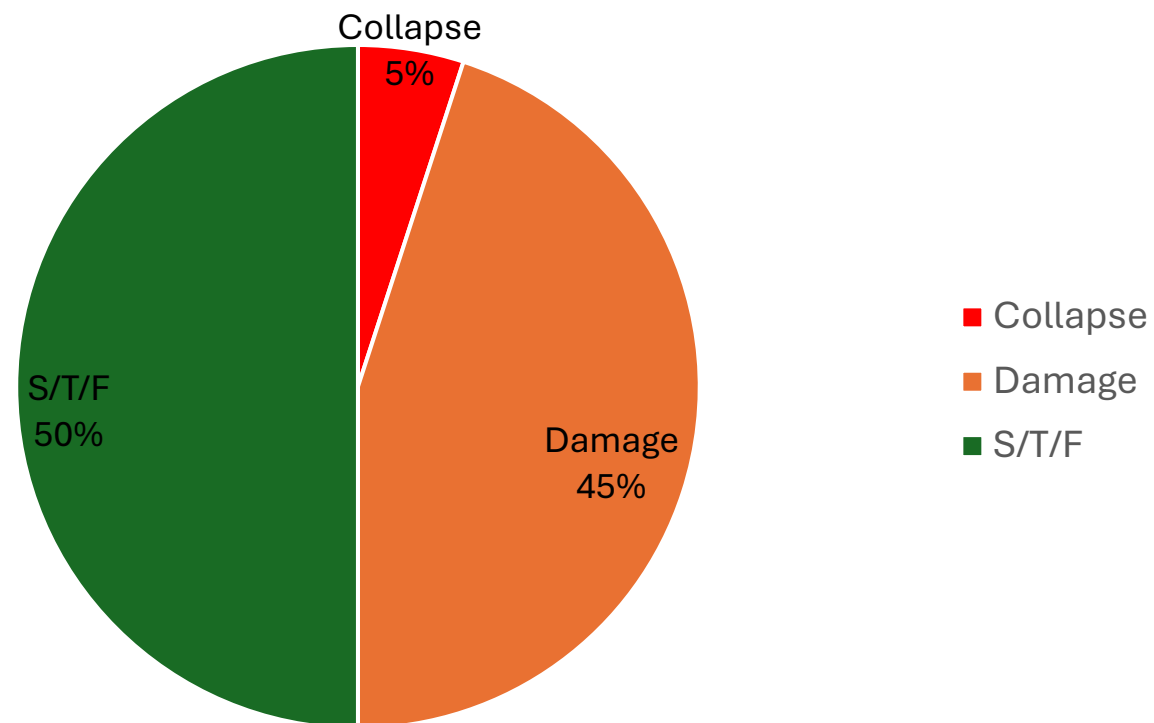
Total Claims per year



Don't Break a Leg

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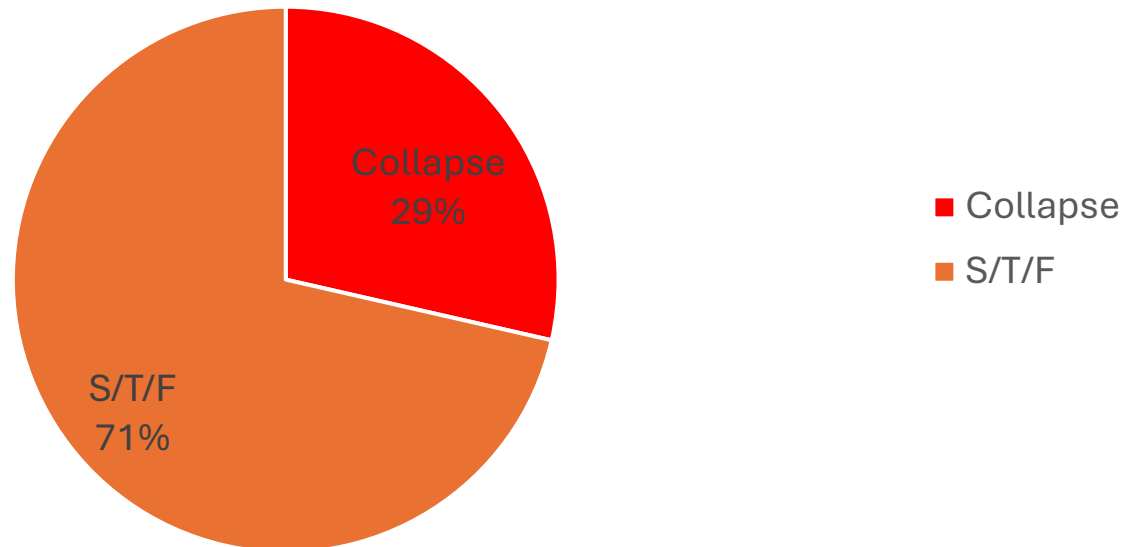
Public Liability Claim by Percent of Total



Don't Break a Leg

- S/T/F = Slips, Trips & Falls
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- Collapse = Damage from Falling item (Scenery / similar)

Personal Accident Claim by Percentage of Total



Safework Australia

- WHS duties
- As a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU), you must always aim to eliminate the risk of slips, trips and falls, so far as is reasonably practicable. If that is not possible, you must minimise risks so far as is reasonably practicable.
- You must identify hazards, and assess and control risks. Think about your:
 - work areas
 - work procedures
 - tools
 - equipment.
- Consulting with workers can help you find better and easier ways to identify and minimise risks. You should also review control measures to ensure they are working as planned.
- Workers also have duties, including taking reasonable care for their own health and safety.

Safework Australia

- **Safe work procedures**

- Work procedures can also impact on the incidence of slips, trips and falls. Have clear procedures to:

- remove rubbish to avoid trip hazards
- return tools and other items to their storage areas after use
- report and clean spills

- **Keep the workplace clean**

- All workers share responsibility for keeping the workplace clean and tidy.

- Make sure you:
- have adequate rubbish and recycling bins
- have cleaning schedules in place
- dry floors after cleaning
- don't have cords on walkway or work area floors.

Safework Australia

- **Training**
- Training helps workers become more aware of slip and trip hazards and helps to prevent injuries.
- Training should include:
 - awareness of slip and trip hazards
 - identifying effective control measures
 - duties of workers.

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“Don’t Break a Leg”

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Questions

Please feel free to reach out if I can be of assistance in the future:

