



# Health and Safety

Carnival organisations have a legal duty to ensure good standards of health and safety for their employees, volunteers, management committee members and users. Organisations will need to carry out risk assessments, provide employers' liability insurance and meet fire regulations.

## On the road

You should ensure that vehicles entered into a Carnival have adequate and proper insurance and that your float is reasonably constructed and safe for its purpose.

You should appoint a safety officer who has ultimate responsibility on all Health and Safety matters. This should involve writing a health and safety policy and will include preparation of risk assessments.

You should aim to have some band members trained in first-aid and ensure that there are first-aid boxes with you on the road.

## In the workspace

There are hazards in a busy workspace environment (sometimes called the mas camp). People should be given an induction into safe procedures before they start working and this includes all paid professionals and volunteers. It is a good idea to ensure that someone is responsible for keeping the workshop well organised and tidy. Policies will need to be in place for storage of materials that might be considered hazardous. In addition, trained first-aiders should be available to deal with accidents that may occur in the workspace.

Other things to bear in mind:

- Spray paints – these should not be used indoors
- Ventilation - keep the workspace well ventilated when using glues and sprays
- Hot glue guns – people must be trained in how to use this equipment correctly
- Backpacks – make sure they fit correctly and the performer tries them outside. (If it is too windy for the carnival, don't use the backpacks!)



## **Risk Assessments**

You should carry out a risk assessment by checking that all hazards are identified, the level of risk assessed and appropriate action is taken to reduce these risks to an acceptable level. You must take all reasonable precautions to ensure that your performance on the road and in the workspace takes place safely. Copies of your risk assessments should be retained on file.

There are many useful tools and advice available via the web. The Health and Safety Executive website contains useful information and Volunteering England produce publications on managing risk.

The HSE also publishes 'The Event Safety Guide', commonly referred to as the 'purple book', which will give you useful information on health and safety management at events. In addition, the Independent Street Arts Network has a number of publications available on event safety for street arts and carnival events.

Further information is available from:

[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

[www.volunteering.org.uk](http://www.volunteering.org.uk)

<http://www.streetartsnetwork.org.uk>

## **Insurance**

Carnival bands should make their own insurance arrangements. You will need to obtain public liability insurance to cover any damage, loss or accident to band members and the public. All vehicles must be insured in compliance with the Road Traffic Acts.

Carnival event organisers should have public liability for the event to ensure the Health, Safety and Welfare of any employees, volunteer helpers or contractors involved in arranging the event and to the public and participants attending.