

Too quiet on the set; filming accidents often go untold

By ANTHONY MCCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — As hundreds of names scrolled up the screen after 2012's "The Avengers," moviegoers who remained glued to their seats for a taste of the next treat in Marvel's superhero universe didn't know one name was missing — that of John Suttles, a truck driver who died helping make the \$1.5 billion blockbuster.

Every year, workers on both sides of the camera are maimed, burned, break bones and even die striving to deliver entertainment that packs multiplexes and commands top TV ratings. Injuries come not just from obvious risks such as stunts and explosives, but from falls off ladders, toppled equipment and machines without safety guards.

Yet in an industry where virtually everything is tallied and every success is touted, set accidents remain largely hidden and the consequences usually amount to mere thousands of dollars in fines paid out of multimillion-dollar budgets.

The Associated Press determined that since 1990, at least 43 people have died on sets in the U.S. and more than 150 have been left with life-altering injuries, numbers derived by combing through data from workplace and aviation safety investigations, court records and news accounts. And those figures don't always tell the entire story: The AP found several instances in which major accidents did not appear in an Occupational Safety and Health Administration database of the most serious accidents.

Brandon Lee

The most glaring omission is the 1993 shooting death of actor Brandon Lee during filming of the movie "The Crow," despite North Carolina OSHA officials amassing a 1,500-page investigative file. An agency spokesman blamed a clerical error.

Internationally, at least 37 people have died in filming accidents since 2000, includ-



Russ Parkison via AP

Michael Bridger in Alaska, where the Redondo Beach native spent several summers working the salmon fishing season. Bridger made his living in the water, as a diver, fisherman and occasional grip on movie productions. While cleaning a water tank during production of "The Lone Ranger," Bridger suffered a heart attack and died, leading a government agency to fine producers more than \$61,000 for several workplace safety violations.



AP Photo/Lacy Atkins

American actor Brandon Lee. Since 1990, at least 43 people have died on sets in the U.S. and more than 150 have been left with life-altering injuries. The death of Lee during the filming of "The Crow," garnered worldwide attention and prompted changes on how firearms are treated on sets.

ing a worker killed Aug. 26 in Budapest on the set of the "Blade Runner" sequel.

Injuries to actors typically make headlines, like Harrison Ford's broken leg on the seventh "Star Wars" film in 2014. But that's not the case when most off-screen workers are hurt.

"I think it's always been something that's been swept under the rug," said Stephen Farber, a journalist who chronicled the aftermath of the deadly 1982 "Twilight Zone" helicopter crash that killed actor Vic Morrow and two children.

OSHA investigates most workplace accidents, whether they take place on a movie set,

a factory or a farm.

The death of Lee, superstar Bruce Lee's son, prompted changes on how firearms are treated on sets. Yet it also illustrates the paltry sums companies face after serious accidents. OSHA fined "The Crow" producers \$84,000 — the highest filming fine levied since 1990 — but later reduced the penalty to \$55,000. "The Crow" grossed more than \$50 million.

The AP's review found that in nearly half the instances where OSHA fined studios after a serious accident, the penalty was reduced.

John Suttles fell from the back of a truck he was preparing to drive from a Los Ange-



Colin Duran via AP

Sarah Jones filming on location for the television series "The Vampire Diaries." Jones was killed during a shoot on a train trestle in Georgia in February 2014, and her death has prompted broad safety discussions within the film and television industry and led her parents to advocate for better safety practices during productions.



AP Photo/Russell McPhedran

Steve Irwin, "The Crocodile Hunter" holds a 9-foot female alligator accompanied by his American wife Terri at his "Australia Zoo" in Beerwah, Queensland, Australia. At least 35 people have been killed and more than 150 injured since 2000 in accidents on productions outside the United States run by major studios, as well as regional companies. In 2006, Steve Irwin was killed by stingray in the waters off Australia while filming.

les studio to an "Avengers" set in New Mexico. In his case, a film company affiliated with Marvel owner Walt Disney paid a \$745 fine for not having proper hand-holds on the truck and not supplying drivers with first-aid kits.

The Vietnam War veteran had just a few hours of sleep before he was called back to pick up the Marvel load and had been working on "The Avengers" for weeks, said daughter Lanette Leon, even ducking out early from his 65th birthday party to make a delivery for the then-secretive film.

Leon said her only interaction with the companies after her father's death was going

through the arduous process of securing enough workers' compensation money to cover her son's schooling, which Suttles had been paying for. Workers' compensation is the "exclusive remedy" for the vast majority of workers injured on the job and the families of those killed and prevents them from suing unless their cases fall into a handful of narrow exceptions.

"It was very disheartening to see that in the end, that they treated him like a number," Leon said.

Marvel and Disney did not respond to questions about Suttles' accident.

Hassan Adan, a regional manager for California's

workplace safety agency, said settlements are determined on a case-by-case basis and are intended to correct dangerous situations. "We try to err on the side of safety," he said.

Cost factors

Some within the industry say that, along with concerns about workers' well-being, heftier cost-related factors are a bigger safety incentive than fines.

"Producers never want to have any accident during the filming of a motion picture. It can be expensive," said veteran entertainment attorney Richard Charnley. "They're valuable people. Sometimes you're paying hundreds of thousands a day to film."

A broad coalition — including the major Hollywood studios and labor unions — conducts monthly safety meetings and has created its own training program. Since 2003, the Safety Pass program has trained more than 50,000 workers in many areas of production, and it will begin an ambitious program this year to give refresher courses to tens of thousands of set workers.

Some accidents, like the February 2014 death of assistant camera operator Sarah Jones on a Georgia train trestle, become catalysts for broader safety discussions.

Earlier this year, Jones' parents brought a hush to a crowded set in Los Angeles, where actresses Shirley MacLaine and Amanda Seyfried prepared to shoot a scene for the upcoming film "The Last Word." Richard Jones described his daughter's frantic last moments before imploring the crew, "Please look out for each other."

MacLaine stepped forward, telling the Joneses, "Thanks for reminding all of us we've got to protect each other."

Moments like these are key to their mission of improving safety for workers in a collaborative way.

"She loved the industry," Richard Jones said of his daughter. "We don't want to tear it down. We want to make it better and make it safer."

360 Furniture & HH Goods

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO OUTFIT YOUR HOUSE: Accessories, lamps, pictures, pots and pans, dishes, towels, and bed linens. Used, new, factory-second and antique furniture. If you haven't been in, you'll be surprised. We have a clean, organized second-hand store. **TOOLS! BAY TRADER,** 10555 Sandridge Rd., Long Beach. (360)642-2664. **OPEN EVERY DAY.**

MATTRESS SETS, rebuilt from \$200/set. Also frames and headboards in all sizes. **BAY TRADER,** 10555 Sandridge Rd., Long Beach. (360)642-8945.

375 Misc for Sale

GET YOUR ABS IN SHAPE! ABDOKOR TWIST Exercisor Comes with CD and Scale Like New \$150 or obo (360) 642-4527

If you want results... 74% of Clatsop County Residents read The Daily Astorian and rated Classifieds #1 for the most read section!! (From 2010 Astoria Market Study, by Marshall Marketing & Communications, Inc. Pittsburgh, PA) (503)325-3211 ext. 231 or (800)781-3211 classifieds@dailyastorian.com www.dailyastorian.com

405 Christmas Trees

Oja's U-Cut Trees Nobles, Grands, All Trees \$25 Handmade Wreaths! 4 miles from Miles Crossing, 90198 Youngs River Rd Astoria. Daily 10am-4pm

435 Sporting Goods/Hunting

2,000ft of 1/4 inch galvanized haywire cable. \$525 503-440-1181

LOOKING for livestock buyers? Place a low-cost classified ad.

485 Pets & Supplies



French Bulldog Pups, vet checked, 10wks, shots, papers, AKC, \$700each for pictures email sarepuy@gmail.com (541) 507-4325

485 Pets & Supplies

Wanted Billy Goat La Marcha or Sunaan 503-861-7220

500 Boats for Sale



NELSON'S MARINE SERVICE is accepting orders now! Boat Models 17-ft, 21-ft, 24-ft Plywood/glass construction. (360)642-4672 Nelsonmlat@willapabay.org

Preception Vizeaya 16ft Sea Kayak \$800 503-325-0074

535 Motorcycles

1984 Kawasaki LTD 1100cc 20,418miles. \$1500 503-325-0074

555 SUVs

FOR SALE 1988 CHEVY SUBURBAN 4-Wheel Drive 350- Engine No Rust. Runs Great \$3,500-OBO Call Robert (503)791-8982

560 Trucks

1993 FORD F250 H.D. 7.3 DIESEL XLT Super Cab Tilt Wheel—Cruise PW/PL. Canopy. Very excellent condition \$4,995 **Must Sell (360)244-3365**

LEGAL NOTICES

AB6067 CITY OF ASTORIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The City Council of the City of Astoria has adopted Ordinance No. 16-07 on November 21, 2016 approving the Astor-West Urban Renewal Plan First Amendment. The Amendment has been adopted in conformance with the applicable legal requirements and shall be conclusively presumed valid for all purposes 90 days after the adoption of the ordinance. No direct or collateral attack on the action may thereafter be commenced.

THE CITY OF ASTORIA Sherri Williams Administrative Assistant **Published: November 25th, 2016**

LEGAL NOTICES

AB6065 Notice of Planning Commission Public Hearing
On Tuesday, December 6, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., a hearing will be held by the Seaside Planning Commission at Seaside City Hall, 989 Broadway. They will be reviewing the following request:
16-0592C: A request by James Spicer for a zone change at 405 N Wahanna Rd. (T6 R10 22BA TL: 101). The proposal will rezone the upland suburban residential (SR) zoned portions of the subject property (approximately 20,394 sq. ft.) to high density residential (R-3). This would allow urban density residential development in conjunction with annexation of the property that is within Seaside's current urban growth boundary.
In addition to complying with the provisions in the Comprehensive Plan, the review will be conducted in accordance with Article 9 and Article 10 of the Seaside Zoning Ordinance, which establishes the review criteria and procedures for a zone change.
A copy of the application, applicable criteria, documents, and evidence relied upon by the applicant are available for review at no charge. Likewise, a staff report will be available for inspection 7 days prior to the hearing. These materials can be reviewed at the Community Development Department, 1387 Avenue U in Seaside. Copies of these materials will be provided at a reasonable cost.
All interested persons are invited to attend the meeting and submit oral testimony in favor or in opposition to the request. During the hearing, individuals that wish to offer testimony will be called to a microphone by the Chairman of the Planning Commission and asked to state their name and address for the record before they testify.
Written testimony is also welcome but should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding the hearing in order to be included with the information sent to the Planning Commission. Written testimony received after this date will be submitted to the Planning Commission at the time of the hearing. Comments may be delivered to the Community Development Department located at 1387 Avenue U or mailed to 989 Broadway, Seaside, Oregon 97138.
Failure to raise an issue at the meeting, in person, or in writing, or failure to provide sufficient details to afford the Planning Commission and the applicant an opportunity to respond to the issue precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals on that issue.
After the Planning Commission completes their review, they will make a formal recommendation to the City Council and the Council will make the final decision after holding an additional public hearing.
For more information, contact Seaside Planning Director Kevin Cupples at 738-7100.
Published: November 25th, 2016

The Daily Astorian
Customer Service Hotline
503-325-3211
8 am - 6 pm or leave a message anytime or e-mail us: circulation@dailyastorian.com
Please call if:

- You would like to order home delivery
- Your paper has not arrived by 5:30 pm Monday through Friday
- Your paper is damaged
- You have a problem with a news rack
- You are going on vacation
- You have questions about your subscription

Published: November 25th, 2016

We're your newspaper

LEGAL NOTICES

AB6064 Notice of Planning Commission Public Hearing
On Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. a public hearing will be held by the Seaside Planning Commission at Seaside City Hall, 989 Broadway, to take testimony regarding the following item:
16-066CU: A conditional use request by Terry Lowenberg that will allow the establishment of a 1 bedroom residential dwelling on the second floor of the existing commercial use located at 1616 S Roosevelt (T6, R10, 21DD TL: 9400). The property is zone general commercial (C-3) and it conditionally permits the residential use when located within the same structure.
The review will be conducted in accordance with Article 6 and Article 10 of the Seaside Zoning Ordinance that establishes the review criteria and procedures applicable to the request.
16-067CU: A conditional use request by George Horga (Golden Age Center) that will convert the existing apartment building into a 50 bed nursing home facility. The property is located 822 Necanicum (T6, R10, 16DD TL: 900 & 2000) and it is zoned high density residential (R-3). The building was previously used as a nursing home, but it was converted to apartments. The new owner would like to convert it back to its original use.
The review will be conducted in accordance with Article 6 and Article 10 of the Seaside Zoning Ordinance that establishes the review criteria and procedures applicable to the request.
16-068HOZ is a Highway Overlay Zone request by Dustin Johnson & CIDA Architects to establish a new single story commercial building (approximately 1,950 sq. ft.) located at 420 S Roosevelt (T6 R10 S21AD TL: 16300). The property is zoned general commercial (C-3) and the new building will house a Starbucks with a drive through.
The review will be conducted in accordance with Section 3.400, Appendix G of the Transportation System Plan, and Article 10 of the Seaside Zoning Ordinance which establishes the review criteria and procedures for development in the Highway Overlay Zone.
16-070PCR: A request by Tube Art Group to install a new reader board sign (approximately 86.30 sq. ft.) at Seaside High School along the Highway 101 frontage. The property is located at 1901 N Holladay Dr. (T6, R10, 15BC TL: 2900) and the 8.91 acre parcel is zoned medium density residential (R-2). The Seaside Sign Ordinance allows the Planning Commission to authorize additional signage exclusive of zoning for conditionally permitted uses.
The review will be conducted in accordance with Section 155.18 of the Seaside Sign Ordinance that establishes the review criteria and procedures applicable to the request.
All interested persons are invited to attend the meetings and submit oral testimony in favor or in opposition to the request. During the hearing, individuals that wish to offer testimony will be called to a microphone by the Chairman of the Planning Commission and asked to state their name and address for the record before they testify. Written testimony is also welcome and will be submitted to the Planning Commission at the time of the hearing. Comments may be delivered to the Community Development Department located at 1387 Avenue U or mailed to 989 Broadway, Seaside, Oregon 97138. A copy of the application, applicable criteria, documents, and evidence relied upon by the applicant are available for review at no charge. Likewise, a staff report will be available for inspection 7 days prior to the hearing. These materials can be reviewed at the Community Development Department. Copies of these materials will be provided at a reasonable cost.
Failure to raise an issue at the meeting, in person, or in writing, or failure to provide sufficient details to afford the Planning Commission and the applicant an opportunity to respond to the issue may preclude appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals on that issue. For more information, contact Seaside Planning Director, Kevin Cupples at (503) 738-7100.
Published: November 25th, 2016

Follow us on Facebook!
See all of our "New Today!" listings posted daily on Facebook. Follow us at: facebook.com/CoastMarketplace