



ACTRA

SAFETY BULLETIN

STUNT HARNESS HAZARD ALERT!

After UBCP/ACTRA's Stunt Committee reported there are some 'knock off' stunt/ flying harnesses infiltrating the stunt performing community here and abroad, the National Stunt Committee is sharing this information with stunt performers across the country. A harness failure occurred in BC, and the National committee would like to prevent future incidents. Although no one was hurt, this incident is a very strong reminder for everyone to be diligent about the harnesses and equipment used in the performance of stunts. **This bulletin should be shared with anyone who owns a harness or who works in the stunt or performing arts communities.**

The 'imitation' harnesses:

- looks very similar to the stunt harnesses the stunt community has long used but they are NOT built by industry professionals who know how to design and build harnesses. This is evident after the imitation harness was load tested and four pick points failed at 566, 566, 1,700 & 660 lbs. (For comparison, other reputable harness suppliers advertise a minimum ultimate breaking strength of 4,000 lbs.);
- are built with sub-standard materials and are NOT rated for the loads and demands of stunt work;
- only have 20 pick points compared to other reputable harnesses that have 50 pick points;
- DO NOT have company-identifying labels on them;
- are labelled as made in Korea or China;
- are available for purchase online on EBay and are *significantly cheaper* than 'real' stunt or flying harnesses. They may also be available in some stores. The specific harness that failed in BC was obtained in a store in Australia;
- may be being sold as "AMSPEC" harnesses (which they are not – AMSPEC is a reputable supplier).

The ACTRA National Stunt Committee recommends the following:

- 1) Only purchase stunt or flying harnesses directly from either [Climbing Sutra](#) or [AMSPEC](#). Both are in the USA, and our stunt community has a long, successful and safe history with using all kinds of harnesses from both manufacturers;
- 2) Never buy a used harness online;
- 3) Never buy a new harness online from any site such as EBay or Amazon;
- 4) All Stunt Coordinators, Stunt Riggers and Stunt Performers should inspect all harnesses to ensure proper labelling is on all harnesses. If in doubt, do not use the harness until it can be inspected and re-certified for use. If re-certification is not possible, retire or destroy the harness;
- 5) If you think you have an 'imitation' harness, DO NOT USE IT and [contact your local branch](#) immediately so the source of the harness can be identified;

- 6) Please familiarize yourself with your regional regulatory information;
- 7) All stunt performers must ensure they have a log book with each harness that is kept up-to-date; and
- 8) All stunt performers must ensure their harnesses are regularly inspected as per the manufacturer's specifications.

➡ To view the ACTSAFE's video on inspecting stunt harnesses: [CLICK HERE](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please [contact your local branch.](#)

FRONT VIEW of Imitation Harness that Failed



BACK VIEW of Imitation Harness that Failed



The imitation harness was tested by the UBCP/ACTRA stunt rigging team for load and the four tested picks failed at 566, 566, 1,700 & 660 ft. lbs. (photos below)

In comparison, other reputable harness suppliers advertise stunt harness designs have a minimum ultimate breaking strength of 4,000 lbs. using a shackle of .25" stock diameter or greater.



Below are snapshots of the imitation harness that have been discovered online. It is called:

“Abseiling Stunt Show Aerial Wire Fall Arrest Full Body Harness Safety Equipment”



FRONT VIEW



BACK VIEW

- There are other kinds of ‘imitation’ harnesses online by the same supplier;
- The same harness is given other names that include the words stunts, aerial wire, safety, action, fall arrest, photography safety, pro stunt show, etc.;
- Avoid all such harnesses regardless of what type of harness it is (flying, jerk vest, martial arts harness, safety, etc.).

Only buy harnesses from reputable suppliers (AMSPEC & Climbing Sutra)

If you are not sure, please [contact your local branch](#).