

Shania Twain Stagehand Accident Highlights Need for Safety Vigilance

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LAS VEGAS — Dim lighting conditions and backstage hazards have always been a dangerous mix. A fresh reminder came Nov. 19, when Matthew Moore, 35, suffered a broken arm along with head and neck injuries after falling into the 20-by-20-foot, two-story loading pit, used in preparation for Shania Twain's *Still the One* series of shows at Caesars Palace Colosseum, which opened Dec. 1.

Moore, hired by a subcontractor to help set up the wireless microphone system, wasn't the first backstage worker to require hospitalization after falling into the pit. According to a report in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*; an audio tech working on the set for *America's Got Talent* suffered a badly fractured ankle from a fall there on Oct. 25, 2011. AEG Live, which managed the set, reportedly paid OSHA \$5,760.

Moore, who didn't regain consciousness until he was in the hospital, couldn't recall the moments immediately prior to the accident. In the *LVRJ* article, he noted that while audible warnings were sounded every time the lift had been lowered, temporary barriers to warn of the drop-off were not deployed as consistently.

Moore, a backstage veteran who has supported productions since he was 16, is recovering at his home in nearby Pahrump, NV, but with his arm in a cast and a brace for his neck, he didn't expect to be able to return for work any time soon.