



THE TALE OF THE PARKING LOT NUTZI (& WHY THERE ARE "TAKEDOWN PERMITS")

"Takedown" has always been the single most dreaded duty of a show producer, whether inside the hall, or outside in the lot.

Consequently, we developed a procedure to assure some semblance of order during the most chaotic time of the weekend, the infamous ...

TAKEDOWN

From the beginning ...

On Sunday afternoon, our legions of fearsome staff are stationed throughout the hall to assure that no one - and we mean NO ONE - comes into the building with two-wheel or four-wheel hand trucks, tools, crates, etc.

Why?

Because movement of this equipment through the hall is a hazard to all inside: exhibitors and attendees.

Past experience:

- (a) 2 little old ladies saved from being decapitated by a guy carrying a skylight over his head;
- (b) another saved from being "ankle-capped" by a 2-wheel hand truck;
- (c) numerous others saved from 'trip and fall' incidents due to exhibitors' carts in aisles; and,
- (d) an exhibitor who pulled his trailer up to the overhead door and left it there, empty - for over an hour while he dismantled his booth. *Now, that's brass!*

If you don't think (d) was a risk to the man's life and safety, just ask the exhibitors that had to wait.

We "suggest" ...

RULE #1: Don't bother to show up at 3:30 or 4pm on Sunday, and don't expect to enter the hall with a bunch of hand trucks and tools. It's NOT gonna happen.

NOTHING MOVES IN OR OUT BEFORE 5PM

RULE #2: When "TAKEDOWN" is announced, at 5PM on Sunday, we allow crews to enter with their stuff. *(At this time, the smart rats jump ship and hide out at the local tavern...waiting for the first tsunami wave to clear.)*



RULE #3: Takedown Permits. Just because you have a truck, doesn't mean you can drive up and park it in front of the doors while you diddle with the display. No, no, N00000. That's a trick people play on themselves, not us. If you ain't loadin' - you ain't parkin'.

What you need is a Takedown Permit (which doesn't look like the one pictured - so don't bother to copy it) issued by staff walking the aisles. You say, "Hey, my display is down and completely boxed. Can I have a Takedown Permit?" And the staffer says, "Okay. Here ya go," handing you a permit. Don't try to scam it. We check to be sure your booth is torn down.

What's the permit good for? A Takedown Permit is good for the truck line-up in the outer lot to pull up at the overhead doors.

Rule #4: Halls come with either "doors galore," or, "not-so-much." The doors galore variety allows exhibitors to pull up to a door virtually at will.

The not-a-lotta doors facilities require exhibitors to line-up in the outer lot and move in one or two at a time. At these halls, PLEASE follow instructions of parking lot ~~nutzi~~ staff.

Tip:

- If you don't need to pull up to the doors, then walk your hand-carry materials out. It's faster than waiting and you don't need a Takedown Permit.
- Large display? Try staying out of the hall 'til 6pm. Just let THS staff know you're coming. You'll get done much faster after the initial exodus.

Recap:

- We don't let crews into the hall with tools or equipment to protect people from injury.
- Takedown your booth COMPLETELY and then call a staffer to get a Takedown Permit.
- Takedown Permits are needed for the truck line-up.
- Truck line-ups eliminate gridlock and keep waiting time to a minimum.
- After completion of Takedown, show staff heads to the bar to toast the survivors and honor the memory of those who didn't make it.

WE'RE JUST TRYING TO SAVE LIVES HERE .

Thank you for your participation and cooperation.

At Your Service,
Lil' Johnny

Send your comments to
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SOURCE: www.ChicagoHomeShow.Net/LilJ

