SEWING SAFETY TIPS

--- FLOORS
// Slippery fabrics/materials or water from a leaking iron can cause slips and falls. Alert a technician or maintenance staff immediately

--- DRESS FORMS
// Use one hand below the torso/cage and the other at the neck to balance while moving forms around the classroom
// Pull, don't push forms especially if the wheels are tangled with thread to avoid topping
// Move forms to the side/back of the room when not in use
// Clear forms of protruding pins when not in use

--- TABLES
// Food and drink are not permitted on work/cutting tables
// When not in use, clear tables of all pins, blades, and hazardous material

--- PINS
// Do not hold pins in your mouth - you could accidentally swallow or inhale!
// Use pin cushion or magnets to hold pins
// Use magnets to pick pins from floor

--- SEWING MACHINES
// Turn off sewing machine when not in use
// Always turn off the lamp using only the sewing machine's on/off switch. Do not use the switch on the lamp itself.
// Use presser feet with needle guards to prevent injury to fingers when sewing
// Remove pins from area being sewn to prevent needle from shattering should it strike a pin

--- SCISSORS
// Keep scissors closed and in its case or container when not in use
// Keep scissors and thread cutters away from the edge of the table where they can drop off and hit legs and feet
// Keep material that is being cut on table when cutting
// Use bent handle scissors when cutting fabric
// Keep scissors resting on table when cutting fabric
// Keep other hand clear of scissors when cutting
// Always walk with scissors-closed, hands covering blades and finger holes pointed down

--- NEEDLES
// Keep needles secure in packets, pin cushions, or containers
// Protect fine hand sewing needles from piercing skin by wearing a thimble or thimble pad
// Used machine needles must be discarded in designated containers
// Magnets to pick up the pins are located in the First Aid Kit in every sewing room.

--- IRONS
// Keep other hand clear of iron when pressing
// Ironing board is at waist height – be properly clothed in the front of the body when ironing to avoid burns
// Gloves can be worn to protect fingers and hands from being burnt when pressing detailed areas
// Always return & lay flat the iron on its rest plate when not in use
// Never place iron on a surface edge where it might fall off
// Turn off the iron after use with the black switch on the handle, not the timer.

--- THE NEW SCHOOL

Please contact Katherine Perkins (perkins@newschool.edu), Environmental Health and Safety Office of Facilities Management, if you have any questions about the information on this poster. For more information on any health issue, contact Wellness and Health Promotion, Student Health Services, wellness@newschool.edu or 212.226.1971, option 4. Safety Tips are brought to you by The New School Occupational Safety Work Group.