

# Harlan J. Smith 2.7-m Telescope Cautions

- Always, **ALWAYS** watch both ends of the telescope while it is moving. Safety of the telescope and instrument is the responsibility of the observer. Extreme caution must be used when moving the telescope close to the **north and south piers, platforms, strong back on top of elevator, cages on top of the old control room, cherry picker and other objects on the platforms**. Watch also for trailing cables or bundles of cables on the floor. (Use common sense, and don't hurry!)
- The observing floor surface consists of the perimeter floor, East, and West platforms, and the central pier. None of these surfaces have level transition edges. Use caution when traversing the floor, as each transition is a trip hazard.
- The instrument umbilical, control station hand-paddle, and dead-man cables all represent trip hazards. Use caution, do not become entangled in the cabling.
- **DO NOT OPEN THE CATWALK ACCESS DOORS IN HIGH WINDS!** The doors can be torn from their frame, depending on wind direction. You could be severely injured, even pulled out over the catwalk railing during high-winds.
- **DO NOT TRAVERSE THE CATWALK DURING LIGHTNING/ELECTRICAL STORMS!** It is unsafe to be on the exterior catwalk during a lightning storm.
- If you leave the building (or the vicinity of the telescope) for more than a few minutes, either turn off the telescope tracking or be absolutely certain that the telescope cannot track into something while you are gone.
- Wait for the dome to come to a complete stop if you're changing dome motion direction.
- If the wind is so strong that it is moving the dome, cease observing at once and close the dome. Disable dome in TCS. If the telescope will remain in Reset mode (i.e. pumps running, amps on, in a ready state), use the dome holding brake disable control.
- The only supported over-the-axis (tube west) configuration is f/33-Coude. If you have not been trained to take the telescope over the axis, contact Parker Duke, Kevin Meyer, or Coyne Gibson for initial instructions.
- If you bump the telescope into something, you **must** notify Coyne Gibson (x114).
- If in doubt about the weather conditions, please see our weather page at <http://weather.as.utexas.edu>, the current weather conditions at [latest 5min](#), and the [weather closure rules](#).