

LIVE EVENT WORKER SAFETY ORDINANCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. When did the Ordinance go into effect?

The Live Event Worker Safety Ordinance (“Ordinance”), Chapter 2, Article 2, Division 60 of the San Diego Municipal Code, went into effect on July 1, 2025.

2. Where can I find the Ordinance language?

The Ordinance, as well as other helpful information, can be found at:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/compliance/labor-standards-enforcement>

3. What events trigger the application of the Ordinance?

The Ordinance applies to *complex live events* at *City facilities* and *parks*.

4. What is considered a “*complex live event*” under the Ordinance?

A *complex live event* is defined as a live production that involves the temporary setup, operation, or teardown of *non-permanent riggings*, *large portable power distribution systems*, or both. This does not include freight handling or transportation of heavy equipment.

5. Does your event involve temporary setup, operation, or teardown of non-permanent rigging?

Non-permanent rigging means a moveable system of equipment, which is automated or fixed, used for overhead suspension of portable audiovisual equipment, including audio, video, lighting, backdrops, scenery, trusses, and other effects, equipment, or props.

Examples include:

- Trusses or frameworks used to support lighting and sound equipment.
- Suspension systems, or equipment that secures lights, speakers, and other audiovisual gear overhead.
- Lighting grids, or structures that hold lighting fixtures in place above a stage and lighting systems, or systems designed to suspend objects in the air.

The Ordinance requirements are triggered when the non-permanent rigging equipment is:

- Temporarily assembled **and**
- Used for overhead suspension of portable audiovisual equipment.

The general use of audio, video, scenery, etc. does not automatically trigger the Ordinance. For example, permanently installed or fully ground supported audiovisual equipment would not trigger the Ordinance.

6. What is a “park” under the Ordinance?

Park means a City of San Diego public park and is defined by [SDMC S 63.0102\(b\)](#) to mean any public property, whether developed or undeveloped, held out by the City or used by the public for active or passive park and recreation uses, including adjacent buffer lands and natural areas and any adjacent parking lots and perimeter sidewalks. The definition of park includes open space and all public beaches, beach areas, bays, and wetlands within the City.

Examples of City of San Diego parks include:

- [Developed Regional Parks](#)
- [Balboa Park](#)
- [Mission Bay Park](#)
- [Presidio Park](#)
- [Shoreline Parks](#)
- [Community Parks](#)
- [Open Space Parks](#)

This also includes buildings located within City *parks*, such as:

- [Recreation Centers](#)
- [Pool Facilities](#)

7. Does the Ordinance apply to leased buildings and facilities within a City park?

Yes, the Ordinance applies to City-leased facilities and buildings located within City of San Diego *parks*. Examples include SeaWorld located within Mission Bay Park, The Lodge at Torrey Pines located within the Torrey Pines Golf Course, and the San Diego Zoo and museums located within Balboa Park.

8. What is a “City Facility” under the Ordinance?

City Facility is defined by [SDMC § 22.4205](#) as the following City-owned facilities:

- Petco Park
- Pechanga Arena
- San Diego Convention Center
- San Diego City Concourse
- Civic Theatre, including the portion of the Civic Center Plaza directly adjacent to the Civic Theatre when theatre-related activities are held there.

9. Who is considered a “live event vendor” under the Ordinance?

Live event vendors are employers that contract to produce a *complex live event* within *City facilities* or *parks*.

- For events that require a [Special Events Permit](#) or [Park Permit](#), the *live event vendor* is the person or company applying for the permit.
- For events held at a *City facility* or a leased location within a *park*, the *live event vendor* is the person or company signing the contract with the leaseholder to produce a *complex live event*.

10. Who is considered a “contracting entity” under the Ordinance?

Contracting entity is the person or entity allowing the *live event vendor* to produce a *complex live event* at the *City facility* or *park*.

- For events that require a [Special Events Permit](#) or [Park Permit](#), the City of San Diego is considered a *contracting entity* under the Ordinance.
- For events held at a leased *City facility* or a leased location within a *park*, the *contracting entity* is the leaseholder that contracts with the *live event vendor* to produce a *complex live event* at their leased facility.

11. What is considered a “contract for production” under the Ordinance?

Contracts for production are agreements between the *contracting entity* and the *live event vendor* to produce a *complex live event* within *City facilities* and *parks*, including:

- A Special Events Permit or Park Permit issued by the City to a *live event vendor* for the production of a *complex live event* within *City facilities* or *parks*
or

- A contract between an entity leasing a *City facility* and a *live event vendor* to produce a *complex live event* at the entity's leased facility.

12. What live events at *City facilities* or *parks* are not subject to the Ordinance?

The Ordinance defines *complex live events* to include specific thresholds of *non-permanent rigging* and *large portable power distribution systems*. Therefore, the Ordinance does not apply to live events that **do not use** large portable power distribution systems, and only use ground-supported audiovisual equipment. As such, small productions, such as community festivals and events are unlikely to be subject to the Ordinance.

13. Does the Ordinance apply to direct employees of the City?

The requirements of the Ordinance do not apply to direct employees of the City of San Diego when the employee is acting within the scope of their employment.

14. What must a *contracting entity* do to comply with the Ordinance?

- A *contracting entity* must use a written *contract for production*.
- A *contracting entity* must require a *live event vendor* to provide them the following information before any work on a *complex live event* begins:
- The names of employees the *live event vendor* is confirming have completed the applicable courses and certifications **and**
- The courses and certifications the employees completed and date of completion or certification.

15. What must a *live event vendor* do to comply with the Ordinance?

- A *live event vendor* must confirm the following before any work on a *complex live event* within a *City facility* or *park* begins:
 - An employee of a *live event vendor*, including subcontractors' employees, involved in the setting up, operation, or tearing down of non-permanent rigging, large portable power distribution systems, or both, completed the OSHA-10 course, OSHA-10/General Entertainment Safety course, or the Cal/OSHA-10 course as applicable to their occupation; **and**
 - Supervisors have completed the OSHA-30 course, OSHA-30/General Entertainment Safety course, or the Cal/OSHA-30 course, and are

certified through the Entertainment Technician Certification Program for the work performed within the applicable trade.

- A *live event vendor* must provide documentation demonstrating compliance to the *contracting entity*.
- A *live event vendor* must retain the documentation demonstrating compliance for two years following the complex live event and provide a copy to the Enforcement Office upon request.
- A *live event vendor* must post a notice informing employees of the requirement of the Ordinance in either:
- A conspicuous place where any employee is involved in the setup, operation, or teardown of the *complex live event*, or
- A place established by the *contracting entity* for posting notices for employees at the *City facility* or *park*.

16. What trainings and certifications are required under the Ordinance?

- Employees of a *live event vendor*, including any subcontractors' employees, involved in the setup, operation, or teardown of *non-permanent rigging* or *large portable power distribution systems* will need to provide proof of completion of the OSHA-10 course, OSHA-10/General Entertainment Safety course, or the Cal/OSHA-10 course.
- Supervisors of these employees are required to provide proof of completion of OSHA-30 course, OSHA-30/General Entertainment Safety 30 course, or the Cal/OSHA 30 course.

17. What is the OSHA-10 course?

OSHA-10 means the [United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's 10-hour course on workplace health and safety](#).

18. What is the OSHA-10/General Entertainment Safety course?

OSHA-10/General Entertainment Safety means the [United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's 10-hour course on workplace health and safety specific to the entertainment and exhibition industries](#).

19. What is the Cal/OLSA-10 course?

Cal/OSHA-10 means a 10-hour course offered by a training provider that is authorized by an [OSHA Training Institute Education Center](#) to provide the course.

20. What is the OSHA-30 course?

OSHA-30 means the United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's 30-hour course on workplace health and safety.

21. What is the OLSA-30/General Entertainment Safety course?

OSHA-30/General Entertainment Safety means the United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's 30-hour course on workplace health and safety specific to the entertainment and exhibition industries.

22. What is Cal/OSHA-30?

Cal/OSHA-30 means a 30-hour course offered a training provider that is authorized by an OSHA Training Institute Education Center to provide the course.

23. Who is considered a supervisor?

Supervisor means any employee who leads, supervises, or directs one or more employee in that same occupation and is employed in an occupation that may be certified by the Entertainment Services and Technology Association's Entertainment Technician Certification Program.

24. What is the Entertainment Technician Certification Program?

The Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) is a certification administered by the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA). ESTA is the non-profit trade association for the entertainment technology industry. ESTA develops standards for entertainment crafts through a technical standards program accredited by the American National Standards Institute.

More information about this certification can be found on the ESTA webpage: <https://etcp.esta.org/>.

25. How much do these training courses cost?

The cost of the Cal/OSHA and OSHA courses can vary depending on the training provider and training format. Generally, the OSHA and Cal/OSHA courses average \$45 per person. An OSHA-30 and Cal/OSHA-30 course can cost between \$150 to \$170 per person. The ETCP cost is \$650 and valid for 5 years; recertification after 5 years is \$250 per person.

26. How will the Ordinance be enforced?

The Ordinance is enforced by the City's Compliance Department, Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement, Minimum Wage Program. Complaints for noncompliance may be filed directly on the Program's webpage. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Ordinance may result in the assessment of civil penalties or prohibition of future City permits.

27. How will live event vendors be notified of the Ordinance?

Live event vendors will be notified as part of the permit application process for *complex live events* that require a Special Events Permit or Parks Permit. *Live event vendors* will be notified of the Ordinance requirements as part of your contract for production for *complex live events* at City-leased facilities.

28. Where can I find the required notice?

The required notice is available on the City's Compliance Department, Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement webpage:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/compliance/labor-standards-enforcement>

29. Where must the notice be posted?

The notice must be posted in a conspicuous place where covered workers involved in the setup, operation, or tear down of a complex live event can easily access it and read it. Acceptable posting methods may include:

- A bulletin board at the worksite or in a break area
- A binder kept in a work truck or at the worksite
- Distribution via email to all covered workers
- Displayed with Special Events Permit, if applicable
- Any other method appropriate to the nature of the event and location, so long as it ensures workers are reasonably able to see and review the notice.

30. What resources are available to help with understanding compliance with the Ordinance?

Compliance information is available on the City of San Diego websites for both the [Special Events Department](#) and Compliance Department [Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement](#).

The Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement is providing this information as general guidance on the City's Live Event Worker Safety Ordinance. This information is provided as a public service and should not be construed or relied upon in any way as legal advice or a legal opinion. Although we make every effort to correct any errors brought to our attention, please refer directly to the full text of the Ordinance.