

OTW's Cheat Sheet to Live Event Safety

1 Plan safety and security *into* your operation

OTW's number one recommendation for safety in crowd control is to plan your safety and security into your operation

2 Create a thorough emergency plan

in case of unexpected and/or emergency events, a contingency plan should be in place that includes mitigation practices (avoiding accidents in the first place), preparedness for emergencies, response to emergencies, and recovery.

3 Assess the risks

A risk assessment for relevant risks to the location and personnel and planning accordingly – reporting errors and/or miscalculations at this stage (when they occur) is crucial to maintaining order and avoiding accidents when crowds are larger.

4 Clear pathways and security checkpoints

ensuring that paths are wide enough for expected crowds and that there is enough security personnel to oversee checkpoints, exits, entrances (this includes parking lots), and overall crowd control goes a long way in maintaining safety for all.

Checkpoints, such as 18+ and 21+ areas, VIP sections, and alcohol/no alcohol zones are extremely helpful in guiding guests in appropriate directions, and concert crowd barricades (with custom signage) are the perfect way to direct your attendees clearly.

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5 **Crowd control barricades**

Deploying concert barricades in appropriate locations is key to controlling your crowds well. Adding clear signage (i.e. first aid, exits, checkpoints) will help your attendees – knowing where to go (in case of emergency and in general) is half the battle in feeling comfortable and safe in any new location. Not only will the presence of concert security barricades help your guests feel safer, but they will actually keep your guests safe.

6 **DEI – Diversity, equity, inclusion**

One of the most important things to consider in safety planning is if your event is safe for all attendees, regardless of ability. This includes wheelchair accessibility (and signage on where to find it), ASL interpreters throughout the venue, and volunteer medics with basic training to support attendees.

A true medical station will include more than just the basics – while bandaids and CPR training are invaluable, recovery zones prepped with Narcan and relevant supplies in case of overstimulation or an OD are pertinent as well.

Mental health support is a boon to those who need it, and concerts and festivals are prime locations for panic or anxiety attacks due to crowding, stimulation, etc. Having a safe space and qualified individuals present to help remediate said attacks is one way to make your event even better.

While no one wants harmful situations to take place at their event, it is best practice to be prepared for when they do occur. A reporting station where attendees can report instances of assault, drugging, or any kind of inappropriate behavior is essential to maintain true safety for every attendee. Ensuring that every guest knows such a place is available is also vital for safety.