



ResCon 365 presents: The State of Event Security: Post Pandemic and Beyond

Presented by: James DeMeo

James A. DeMeo, M.S. has over three decades of experience in the security industry and is considered a foremost subject matter expert on event security. Mr. DeMeo is a retired Detective from the Nassau County Police Department, Long Island, NY, having served 21 years in law enforcement. Mr. DeMeo was recognized by [Security Magazine's: The Most Influential People in Security 2017](#).

Mr. DeMeo serves as Vice President for Crowdguard US, a crowd safety solutions provider & CEO of [Unified Sports and Entertainment Security Consulting, LLC., \(USESC\)](#). He also enjoys serving as a remote learning Adjunct Instructor for multiple universities – including Tulane University’s School of Professional Advancement in in Event Security. Mr. DeMeo is also the bestselling author of [What's Your Plan? A Step by Step Guide to Keep Your Family Safe During Emergency Situations](#).

Reference Materials:

Links:

[NFL gets serious about fan conduct](#)

[Texas Task Force on Concert Safety RE: Astroworld Concert](#)

Introduction to Worldwide Venues:

“Large public gatherings, such as sports events that celebrate American popular culture, are considered to be potential terrorist targets (Hurst, Zoubek, & Pratsinakis, n.d.).

In March 2005, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) identified a dozen possible strikes it viewed most devastating, including a truck bombing of a sports arena (Lipton, 2005). Since 9/11, the American sports industry has increased security at major sporting venues and high profile events such as the Super Bowl, World Series, and Olympics. University sport programs must also take necessary steps to secure

their stadiums and campuses against potential threats. College sport stadiums provide a perfect target for mass casualties and catastrophic economic impact.

Source: United States Sports Academy

Assessing risk therefore reduces vulnerabilities, and vicarious liabilities. A need to increase the level of preparedness will help reduce potential threats to university & sporting venues worldwide.

Identifying standards for sport security management teams is paramount to providing a safe environment for sport patrons. This will further assist in providing consistency in security practices among sport venues nationwide.

The two primary research questions should be explored:

1. What standards are needed for effective security management of sporting venues?
2. What is the perceived level of importance for these security standards?

Responsibilities for Sports Security Supervisory Personnel:

- Provide a safe and secure environment for venue employees, guests, performers and professional athletes.
- Supervisory personnel must lead, control and motivate their staff.
- Supervisor will create work schedules, roll calls, deployments and assign personnel to positions within venue. Remember, know your people, their strengths and weakness.
- Attend pre-event briefings, “ walk thru” to discuss safety and security strategies.
- Remember, methods may vary, but procedures and policies will remain consistent and uniform.
- CCTV and door access, monitored by security personnel.
- Command Center, is the brains of the operation. Multi camera, PTZ recording in real time. 24 hours security.
- Monitor existing conditions in order to prevent crimes, suspicious packages, persons etc.
- Retrieval of information can be turned over to law enforcement agencies and used as evidence in criminal proceedings, trials etc.
- Documentation of patron injuries,” slips and falls”, EMS calls for service , loss of property, officer inventor of equipment for accountability. System of checks and balances.

- Proper screening measures of patrons entering venue, examples would be metal detector arches, similar to TSA at airport, courtrooms and hand wand, general search for weapons. Guns and knives.

(4) Key Takeaways:

- Conduction proper risk assessment, looking at the space holistically bodes well for safety/security within the ecosystem.
- Vicarious liability exists, patrons will be uncooperative, intoxicated and in some cases commit crimes in your facilities. Think: Duty of Care, OSHA and ADA. Training, Training...
- The integration of physical security with technologies bolsters organizational resilience.
- Public/Private partnerships is paramount for protecting fans, brand, athletes and assets.