Levitt Network

Event Safety & Security Pocket Guide

December 7, 2024

Disclaimer

The Event Safety and Security Pocket Guide is intended to provide general guidance to Levitt teams to supplement existing event safety and security procedures and practices, and/or provide a foundation from which to develop and implement safety and security procedures for their concert series.

While the *Event Safety and Security Pocket Guide* is based upon industry best practices, standards and guidelines, event safety and security requirements can vary significantly depending on the specific nature, location, size, and type of the venue or event. It is the responsibility of Levitt teams to ensure compliance with all applicable local laws, regulations, and ordinances, and to consult with, and seek advice from their local public safety and law enforcement with respect to their event safety and security and safety plans.

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Foreword

Event safety and security underpins the foundation of successful and sustainable community music concerts, bringing people together to celebrate culture, foster connections, and enjoy the transformative power of music within a safe and inclusive environment. As such, the Levitt network *Event Safety and Security (ES2) Pocket Guide* has been designed to provide Levitt teams with event safety and security protocols, templates and checklists based on industry best practices, standards and guidelines to support their endeavors to plan and deliver their Levitt concert series within a safe and inclusive environment.

While this guide offers valuable and pragmatic resources, it is also appreciated that each Levitt concert series and site or venue is unique, and Levitt teams are encouraged to collaborate with their local public safety authorities, law enforcement, and private security partners for their input and advice to tailor/adapt the Levitt ES2 pocket guide to their specific needs of their concert series.

In closing, we hope that the ES2 pocket guide will serve as a valuable resource to support Levitt teams plan and deliver safe and inclusive environments for their Levitt concert series in 2025.

How to use the Pocket Guide

The Levitt network Event Safety and Security (ES2) Pocket Guide has been developed to serve as a quick-access resource for Levitt event teams who may not have documented procedures and protocols and for event teams with existing event documentation, it provides an opportunity for the event team to benchmark their existing documentation to the pocket guide.

The ES2 pocket guide is not intended to replace existing event safety and security documentation but rather to provide a foundation for the enhancement or development of event safety and security procedures and protocols.

The following are suggested approaches for how to use the ES2 pocket guide:

- **On the go 'ready reference' for event staff** during the concert series whether in credential pocket sleeve or as part of a digital toolkit.

- **Enhance understanding of event protocols and practices** through event team awareness through reference to event procedures and protocols.

- **Training tool**: incorporate into event team training sessions to familiarize event staff and volunteers with key operational concepts and procedures.

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Section I: Risk Management

…talking about risks is not risk management. Nor does it mean that you have properly and adequately managed risk if you have a certificate of insurance.
- Berlonghi, 1990

Risk management is the the identification, assessment, and prioritization of risks, followed by the coordinated and economical application of resources, to minimize, monitor, and control the probability and/or impact of unfortunate events (US Dept. Homeland Security, 2011).

How to conduct an event risk assessment in 5 questions

1) What could happen / **go wrong**?

2) What would **cause** it to happen?

3) How **likely** is it to occur?

4) What are the potential **consequences/impacts**?

5) How can we **reduce the likelihood** *[preventive risk control measures]* of the risk occurring…. & if it occurs (incident), how can we **reduce the potential severity of impact or harm?**

Section II: Event C3 - command, control & communications

Effective **Command, Control, and Communication (C3)** is the backbone of successful event management. It ensures that event teams, partners, and stakeholders work collaboratively to maintain safety, security, and operational efficiency. Through event C3, Levitt event teams can:

- **enhance coordination**: streamline efforts across the event team and external stakeholders.

- **respond effectively**: facilitate rapid decision-making and deployment of resources during incidents and emergencies.

- **enhance attendee safety through** event staff situational awareness and disseminating timely and accurate information.

This section contains the following templates & checklists:

- Event C3 and stakeholder analysis

- Decision-making under uncertainty : the OODA loop

- Public communication messaging: the 27-9-3 rule

- Communicating to attendees during an incident: the DEER Model

- Event communications: radio protocols and phonetic alphabet

Event C3 & concert stakeholder analysis

C3 (command, control and communications) ensures the **right information** goes to the **right people** at **the right time to** support informed decisions making.

- **Command** - exercising authority based on knowledge to achieve a goal.

- **Control** – providing direction/guidance towards achieving your goal/mission.

- **Communications** –sharing information to achieve a goal.

C3 Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder analysis is a process to identify stakeholders, roles and responsibilities and information requirements within the event C3 ecosystem to mitigate the risk of communication (information) gaps and misunderstandings during routine concert operations and an emergency.

Event Stakeholders
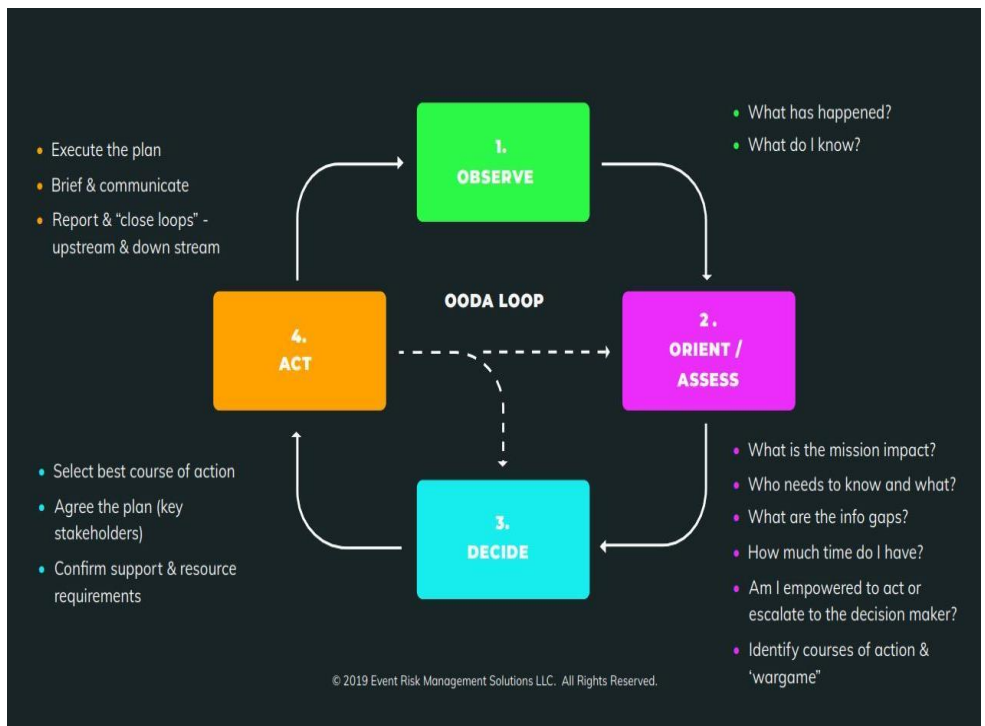- Staff & volunteers
- Vendors & suppliers
- Sponsors
- Private security
- Fire & EMS
- Police
- Board/executive leadership

External Stakeholders
- Levitt Foundation
- Attendees
- Media
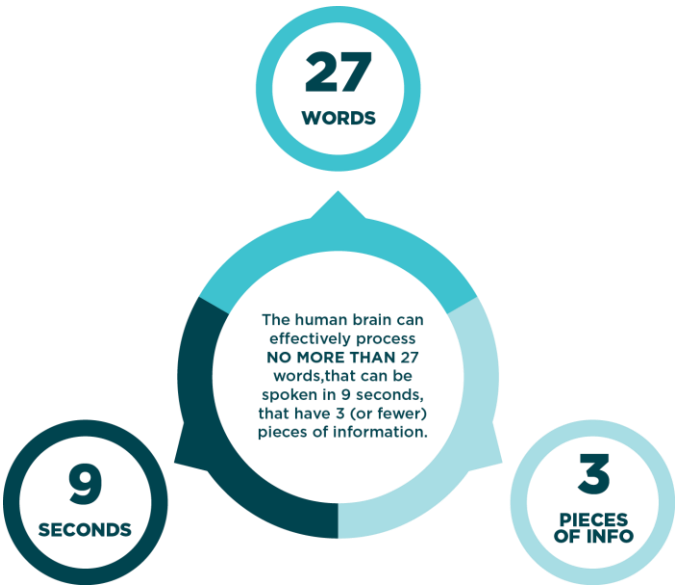- City & municipality partners
- Local community

Decision-making: the OODA loop

The OODA loop (observe, orientate, decide and act) loop is a decision-making framework developed by military strategist John Boyd to provide a structured, iterative approach to assess situations, make informed decisions, and respond effectively within uncertain and dynamic environments. The OODA loop infographic is a tool which event teams can adopt to enhance decision-making during an incident or emergency.

- Execute the plan
- Brief & communicate
- Report & "close loops" - upstream & down stream

OODA LOOP

1. OBSERVE

- What has happened?
- What do I know?

4. ACT

2. ORIENT / ASSESS

3. DECIDE

- Select best course of action
- Agree the plan (key stakeholders)
- Confirm support & resource requirements

- What is the mission impact?
- Who needs to know and what?
- What are the info gaps?
- How much time do I have?
- Am I empowered to act or escalate to the decision maker?
- Identify courses of action & 'wargame"

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Event public messaging & announcements

The 27-9-3 rule for public announcements ensures that messages are clear and concise in the event of an incident or emergency during your concert series. It is recommended that pre-scripted messages should be prepared in advance.

27 WORDS

The human brain can effectively process **NO MORE THAN** 27 words, that can be spoken in 9 seconds, that have 3 (or fewer) pieces of information.

9 SECONDS

3 PIECES OF INFO

Key Message (Point) 1 (9 words on average)	Key Message (Point) 2 (9 words on average)	Key Message (Point) 3 (9 words on average)
Due to inclement weather, tonight's Levitt concert has been cancelled.	Please follow directions of the Levitt event staff	Updates will be provided on Facebook and Instagram ASAP

Examples of pre-scripted emergency announcements

 # 1. Pre-event cancellation of concert: Attention, please. Due to inclement weather, tonight's Levitt concert has been cancelled. Please stay safe out there!

 # 2. Emergency evacuation: Attention, please. Due to (insert incident) we are asking everyone to evacuate the venue and return to your cars or nearby location (designated area if have one) to shelter-in-place. Please remain calm and move safely out of the area."

#3. Concert disruption due to loss of power: Attention, please. We have temporarily lost power to the venue. Please stay calm, remain within the venue, and look for updates via social media.

#4. Severe weather alert: Attention please, we have received a severe weather warning for our concert. For your safety, tonight's Levitt concert is now cancelled. Please exit the venue. Thank you and be safe.

How to communicate, guide & support attendees during an incident:
the DEER Model

The DEER model provides guidance for event staff and volunteers on how to communicate (calm, concise and reassuring) and direct attendees during a concert incident or evacuation.

Direct	Keep moving
Encourage	You're doing well – Help your neighbor
Example	Lead by example and demeanor
Redirect	Direct attendees/guests to the safest egress route

Event communications & radio protocols

An effective event radio network operation is charactered by the consistent use of a common operating language and radio protocols by all users. Common radio language includes:

- **Roger (copy that) -** OK, acknowledged, Loud and Clear, or I will comply.

- **Say Again -** asking for the last sentence to be repeated.

- **This is -** identifying my position (call sign) when either sending or responding.

- **Radio Check** -to confirm operability of both radio and TG.

- **Acknowledge -** please respond that you understood my request /message.

- **Wait Out -** used when the receiver is busy and needs to call the sender back.

- **Over -** I have finished talking, please respond.

- **Out -** ending the conversation (initiating caller).

Phonetic Alphabet

Phonetic alphabet is used to spell out parts of a message containing letters and numbers to avoid confusion e.g. many letters sound similar, for instance "n" and "m" or "b" and "d".

Phonetic Alphabet:		Numerals:	
Alpha	**N**ovember	**1**	**Wun**
Bravo	**O**scar	**2**	**To Wer**
Charlie	**P**apa	**3**	**Tuh Ree**
Delta	**Q**uebec	**4**	**Fo Wer**
Echo	**R**omeo	**5**	**Fi Yive**
Foxtrot	**S**ierra	**6**	**Six**
Golf	**T**ango	**7**	**Se Ven**
Hotel	**U**niform	**8**	**Ate**
India	**V**ictor	**9**	**Niner**
Juliet	**W**hiskey	**0**	**Zero**
Kilo	**X**-Ray		
Lima	**Y**ankee		
Mike	**Z**ulu		

Section III: Event Safety

A commitment to event safety and security goes beyond preventing accidents or responding to emergencies; rather, it should be envisioned as part of the event teams 'DNA'. Providing a safe and inclusive concert environment for your attendees and staff supports the Levitt Foundation's vision to leverage "the power of free, live music to strengthen the social fabric of communities, creating places people love while amplifying local pride, activating underused public spaces and fostering more equitable, healthy and thriving communities…".

This section contains the following templates and checklists:

- Pre-concert safety and readiness checklist

- Post concert 'hot washup' debrief

- Incident reporting checklist: ETHANE

- De-escalation techniques for Event Staff

- First Aid response checklist & Stop the Bleed

- Concert Evacuation Checklist

Pre-Concert Team Brief & Readiness Checklist

The purpose of a pre-concert team brief is to provide a structured approach to briefing and enhance information sharing with your event team prior to the concert, where possible you should also include public safety and security personnel. The briefing points in this template can be further customized to meet the specific needs of your concert series and events.

Don't forget to consider a quick debrief 'hot washup' at the end of concert with your team.
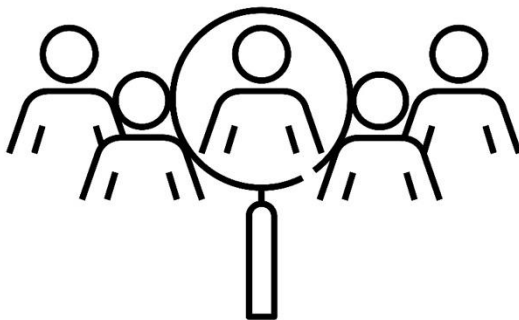
Pre-Concert Team Brief Checklist

- **Concert /Event overview**
  - Attendance
  - Artists
  - Layout & set-up
  - Parking
- **Weather forecast**
- **Assignments & responsibilities**
  - Event Director / deputy
  - Event staff (leads)
  - Volunteer coordinator/s
  - Volunteers
  - Security/police
- **Concert key timings**
  - Opening act
  - Headliner
  - Volunteer donation bucket walkaround
  - End of show
  - Post concert debrief 'hot washup'

- **Safety & Security Procedures**
  - Medical incident
  - Escalation protocol / request for assistance
  - 'Show stop'
  - Disruptive guests
  - Call for police /EMS
  - Active shooter
  - Evacuation
- **Risks & Issues**
  - Address any specific concerns for the concert
- **Communications**
  - Radio allocation & callsigns / matrix
  - Team group text/messaging (e.g. WhatsApp groups)
  - Police, fire & EMS
- **Key reminders:** highlight 3 -5 key takeaways for your team

Post Concert 'Hot washup' Debrief

Conducting regular post concert debriefs (immediately after the concert) provides an opportunity for continuous improvement, team learning and enhanced preparedness, fostering a team culture of learning and resilience. In sum, debriefs provide an opportunity to gain valuable insights into what worked, what didn't, and how to improve event operations and practices throughout the concert series.

Concert / Incident Debrief Checklist

1) Confirm time, location and attendees

2) Discuss what went well and what may require improvement

3) Identify / discuss any gaps and challenges and proposed solutions

4) Confirm follow-up action items and assign responsibility

The hot washup debrief is designed to be relatively quick (10 minutes) to record key points prior to the subsequent post event production debrief (if applicable).

Incident reporting checklist - ETHANE

When reporting a public safety or medical incident to 911 or briefing police, fire & EMS on arrival at the venue, **ETHANE** is a structured briefing checklist for event staff to provide first responders the information they may require to assess the situation.

ETHANE Incident Brief for Event Staff

- **E**xact location

- **T**ype of incident

- **H**azards – indicate any unsafe or dangerous conditions which are present or suspected

- **A**ccess – provide/identify routes to access the venue and location of the incident

- **N**umber, type, severity of casualties

- **E**mergency services (police, fire & EMS) – share if any officers/first responders are already on-scene

De-escalation techniques for Event Staff

De-escalation is a method to reduce the risk of potential violence when engaging with concert attendees through purposeful actions, verbal communications and body language to calm an interaction with an attendee during a situation which has the potential to escalate (verbal or physical threats).

By listening to people with empathy and speaking to them with respect, you may be able to reduce the risk of further escalation. If you feel uncomfortable at any time, escalate to event staff.

- Treat all concert guests, visitors and staff with **dignity** and **respect.**
- **Ask** rather than tell people, if you want them to do something.
- **Explain** why you are asking someone to do something.
- Give people positive **options**, rather than using threats.
- Offer people **a second chance**, when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

First Aid Response Checklist & Stop the Bleed

First Responder / First Aider

- Assess the situation (observe and orientate).

- Ensure it's safe for you to approach the injured patient; if assisting the patient exposes you to unsafe hazards, do not proceed.

- Seek immediate assistance – call 911, then contact event staff (event manager /Executive Director).

- Administer first aid, if trained to do so.

- Reassure the patient that help is on the way.

- Stay with the patient, provide necessary. assistance until arrival of EMS/medical professionals.

Priorities for the Event Leadership Team

- Life safety: alert (911) medical and emergency services

- Incident scene management and crowd management

- Facilitate access and support to responding emergency services vehicles and personnel

- Consider concert programming decisions from 'show stop' (interruption to programming) or cancellation

- Public messaging and communications updates

Stop the Bleed: applying a tourniquet (next page)

Applying a Tourniquet

A wound on the leg or arm that won't stop bleeding is a good candidate for a tourniquet.

Step 1:
Stop the bleeding. *Now!*

Expose the wound. Tear clothing away. I mmediately apply firm, direct pressure to the wound using gauze, clean cloth, an elbow, hand, or knee — whatever it takes to slow or stop the hemorrhage. If the pressure does not stop the bleeding, and the dressing becomes soaked with blood, you will need to apply a tourniquet.

1

2
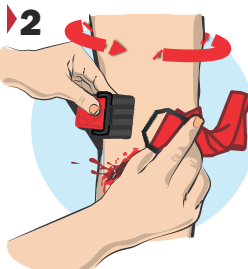
Step 2:
Apply the Tourniquet

If the bleeding doesn't stop, place a tourniquet at least 2-3 inches from the wound. The tourniquet may be applied and secured over clothing.

Step 3:
Adjust the tourniquet.

Be sure the tourniquet is at least 2-3 inches from the wound. The tourniquet should be placed between the wound and the heart. Do not apply a tourniquet over a joint, such as an elbow, knee, wrist, or ankle. (Joints protect blood passageways and prevent the pressure needed to stop an arterial bleed.)

4
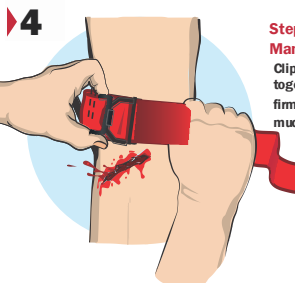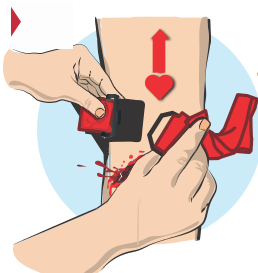
Step 4:
Manually tighten the tourniquet

Clip the sides of the tourniquet together using the buckle and pull firmly on the end strap. Tighten it as much as you can.
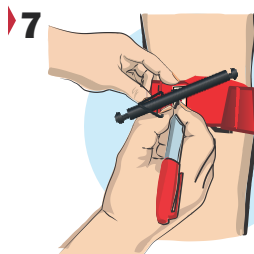
Step 5:
Use the windlass rod to further tighten the tourniquet.

Twist the windlass rod in one direction to increase the pressure and stop the bleeding.

5

6

Step 6:
Secure the windlass rod.

Using the windlass clip, secure the rod so that it does not unwind. If there is a velcro strap, also use that to secure the windlass.

7

Step 7:
Make a note of the time.

Note the time that the tourniquet was applied.

This is important because leaving a tourniquet on too long can cause damage to the tissue. A time-stamp will help care-givers know which patients to treat first.

Concert Evacuation Checklist

The requirement to initiate a concert evacuation may be triggered by the following events: (1) active shooter, (2) severe weather warning, (3) fire, (4) hazardous materials (HAZMAT) leak and (5) a suspicious item/suspected improvised explosive device (IED).

The following steps/actions are typically documented within an evacuation emergency response procedure (ERP) or Incident Action Plan (IAP).

Steps and Actions: Executive Director/Event Manager confirms the requirement to initiate concert evacuation:

- **Issue evacuation instructions** to event team, production staff and security /police (if present); event team deploys to pre-assigned locations.

- **Notify/coordinate with local authorities,** police and emergency services.

- **Public announcement** to attendees and vendors through pre-scripted messages – video boards & PA announcements.

- **Event staff direct crowd movement** and assist individuals with disabilities or mobility challenges; reassure attendees with positive communication.

- Event staff **monitor and report progress** of crowd evacuation and clearance of venue.

- **Post evacuation:** Executive director / event manager accounts for all staff and volunteers.

- **Conduct post evacuation debrief** & evaluation.

Section IV: Event Security

As an event organizer, you have a duty of care to ensure that reasonable industry, event security protocols and procedures have been implemented to ensure the safety and well-being of your attendees, artists, vendors and event staff/volunteers.

This section provides examples of event security templates and checklists based on guidance from current industry best practices and CISA[1].

- Escalation protocol: a measured response to disruptive & disorderly guests

- The Power of Hello: assessing, evaluating & reporting suspicious behaviors

- HOT Protocol: assessing unattended and suspicious items

- Active Assailant Response

CISA: the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency is the US Government's operational lead for federal cybersecurity and the national coordinator for critical infrastructure security and resilience.

Escalation protocol for event teams

During your concert series, it is likely that one of your event staff or volunteers will interact with a disruptive and/or a non-compliant attendee/s. While most situations will be resolved without incident, it's important that event teams have an escalation protocol in place which outlines the steps to be taken up through the event teams 'chain of command' from a volunteer all the way through to requesting a law enforcement response.

The following infographic provides a guide to the levels of escalation and communication (chain of command) within a typical event environment when considering your escalation protocols.

The Power of Hello: evaluating & reporting suspicious behaviors

Used effectively, the right words can be a powerful tool. By simply saying "hello," event staff can prompt a casual conversation with attendees at your Levitt concert which is both welcoming (inclusiveness) and provides an opportunity to assess whether an attendee need assistance or if their actions of behavior just 'doesn't feel right' (suspicious). The OHNO approach developed by CISA – **Observe, Initiate a Hello, Navigate the Risk, and Obtain Help** Is an approach which helps event staff and volunteers observe, evaluate and report suspicious behaviors. The 'power of hello' is complimentary to the 'See Something, Say Something' campaign.

Source: Employee Vigilance - Power of Hello | CISA

OBSERVE
Stay vigilant of your surroundings

INITIATE A HELLO
Acknowledging a risk can deter a potential threat

NAVIGATE THE RISK
Determine if the behavior you observed is threatening or suspicious

OBTAIN HELP
Obtain help from management or authorities

www.cisa.gov

HOT Protocol: unattended & suspicious items

The following are the recommended steps for event staff to assess whether an unattended bag is suspicious and should be reported based on the CISA HOT protocol.

Assess if the item is 'HOT' :

> **H**idden?
>
> **O**bviously suspicious?
>
> Not **T**ypical - noticeably out of place?

Note: further details & steps are shown in the infographic on the next page

If the item is assessed to be 'HOT', take the following actions**:**

- Do not tilt, tamper or touch the item or object.
- **DO NOT** use your radio or mobile in the immediate vicinity of the item.
- Notify/contact the nearest police officer or security officer.
- Alert your Executive Director / Event Manager.
- Executive Director / Event Manager: direct the event team to provide assistance to law enforcement and/or security (as requested).

Suspicious or Unattended?

Criminals or terrorists sometimes conceal improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in backpacks, suitcases, or common items.

Use this process to safely determine if an item is a serious threat or just unattended.

Is it H O T ?

Hidden
- Placed out of sight
- Appears purposely concealed

Obviously suspicious
- Unexplainable wires or electronics
- Bomb-like components

not Typical
- Out of place for the location
- Potentially related to a threat

Use **R.A.I.N.** — **YES** (Suspicious)

NO (Unattended)
- Treat with caution
- Try to determine the owner
- Report to an authority

If an item is suspicious you should:

R — **Recognize the Indicators of a Suspected Explosive Device**
Indicators can be related to the characteristics, events, location, or time, including whether the item is Hidden, Obviously suspicious, or not Typical (HOT).

A — **Avoid the Area**
Don't touch the suspected item. Instead, immediately move and direct others to move away immediately.

I — **Isolate the Suspected Item**
Establish a perimeter to secure the area and continue to direct people away. Use frontal and overhead cover and if available wear personal protective equipment.

N — **Notify Appropriate Emergency Services**
Describe the Suspicious items and persons, the person's Actions, the Location of the item, the Time of placement and discovery, and Your actions to mitigate risk (SALTY).

If you **see** something, **say** something

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ITEMS
Contact **local law enforcement** or **9-1-1** in case of emergency

SEE SAY · CISA

Active Shooter Response Guidelines

While the likelihood of an active shooter incident occurring during a Levitt event or concert series is very low, it is recommended event teams in close collaboration with local law enforcement develop a plan/emergency response procedure (ERP) to address active shooter situations based on CISA guidelines.

The objective of an active shooter plan is to equip event teams with the knowledge and procedures necessary to respond swiftly and effectively during an active shooter incident.

When developing an active shooter plan for an event, due consideration should also be given to: responses required for an outdoor event, likely crowd behavior (immediate self-evacuation) and protocols for event staff check-in/reunification.

Source: https://community.fema.gov/ProtectiveActions/s/article/Active-Shooter

Active Shooter Response Guidelines (CISA)

HOW TO RESPOND

WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

1. RUN

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Leave your belongings behind
- Keep your hands visible

2. HIDE

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager

3. FIGHT

- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter

CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

HOW TO RESPOND

WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

- Remain calm and follow instructions
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
- Raise hands and spread fingers
- Keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating

INFORMATION

YOU SHOULD PROVIDE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR 911 OPERATOR

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters
- Physical description of shooters
- Number and type of weapons held by shooters
- Number of potential victims at the location

Section V: Glossary

Active Shooter: an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically using firearms.

After Action Review (AAR): a post incident or exercise process to document what went well (response and process) and to identify potential areas for improvement.

Consequence: the effect of an event, incident, or occurrence.

Duty of Care: to exercise care and due diligence, that a reasonable person would exercise.

Emergency: an event, actual or imminent which endangers or threatens to endanger life, property or the environment and which requires a significant and coordinated response

Emergency Response Procedure (ERP): a formal document outlining procedures to be taken by the event team in the event of an incident or emergency.

Emergency Response Team: designated event staff and/or other representatives responsible for determining the options and best means by which to manage the problems created by an incident / crisis in order to achieve a successful resolution and recovery (return to operations).

Evacuation: an organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.

Improvised Explosive Device (IED): a device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract.

Incident: an assessed occurrence having potential or actual adverse effects on the organization.

Recovery: the return to normal business operations following an incident, crisis, disaster or significant event.

Risk: potential for an unwanted outcome resulting from an incident, event, or occurrence, as determined by its likelihood and the associated consequences.

Risk Assessment: the process of identifying, analyzing, assessing, and communicating risk, and accepting, avoiding, transferring, or controlling it to an acceptable level considering the associated costs and benefits of any actions taken.

Section V: Glossary (cont.)

Security Protocol: a specific practice or procedure within the event security plan.

Shelter in Place: response that involves the immediate, orderly movement of attendees/occupants to locations within the venue (indoors or outdoors) that offers relative protection from a natural, technological, or human-caused event.

Threat: natural or man-made occurrence, individual, entity, or action that has or indicates the potential to harm life, information, operations, the environment, and/or property.