



# ANSI ES1.19-2018, Safety Requirements for Special Event Structures

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**Interest category codes**

DE = Designer of Events  
DR = Equipment Dealer or Rental Company  
EQP = Equipment Producer  
INS = Event Insurance Company  
EVP = Event Producer  
G = General interest  
PA = Performing Artist  
EW = Event Worker



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## Foreword

The Event Safety Guide was first published by the Event Safety Alliance in 2014, as a guideline for discourse regarding the many aspects of special event safety. It originated in the UK Health and Safety Executive's *HSG195 "The event safety guide (Second edition) A guide to health, safety and welfare at music and similar events."* where its purple cover subsequently led to its reference as, simply, "*The Purple Guide*". In 2016 the Event Safety Working Group was established within ESTA's Technical Standards Program for the purpose of converting the Event Safety Guide chapters into formally recognized, consensus-based standards that could be universally referenced across special events organizers, producers, enforcement agencies and user-groups. This document is one of many such chapters, intended to be used in conjunction with each other, as a collection of standards, which are used to establish minimum standards for care and public safety for special events. Because event technology and requirements constantly evolve, so too will this collection of standards change and evolve to accommodate industry needs.

It has been assumed in the drafting of this standard that the execution of any design provision is entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, and that any fabrication and use provision is carried out by competent, suitably experienced people and organizations.

This standard presents a coordinated set of rules that may serve as a guide to government and other regulatory bodies and municipal authorities responsible for the guarding and inspection of the equipment within its scope. The suggestions leading to accident prevention are given both as mandatory and advisory provisions; compliance with both types may be required by employers of their employees. Compliance with this Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

This standard is equally applicable in any circumstance where temporary special event structures are used. The risks associated with temporary structures—particularly those installed outdoors—stem directly from basic principles of physics with respects to how the structures are used.

This document uses annex notes to provide additional reference information about certain specific section requirements, concepts, or intent. Subject matter with a corresponding annex note reference is identified by the asterisk (\*) symbol, and the associated reference text is found in Appendix A, Commentary, identified with the referring text section number – e.g. an annex note to section 3.2 will be identified in Appendix A, Commentary as A.3.2. The annex notes are informational only, and do not add or subtract from the mandatory requirements of this standard.

## Introduction

Many events require temporary structures such as grandstands, stages, scaffold, tent and roof structures. Managing the hazards connected with these structures is just as important as managing other event related hazards, such as fire or electrical shock.

The failure of any temporary structure can have devastating effects. Therefore, it is essential to design and erect structures to suit the specific intended purpose and to recognize that the key to the safety of these structures is largely in the:

- Choice of appropriate design and materials;
- Consultation with design professionals, if necessary
- Correct positioning;
- Proper planning and control of work practices; and
- Careful inspection of the finished product.

This standard provides guidance on principles of safety for temporary structures. It starts with the preliminary decisions that need to be made—choosing the site and appropriate type of structure—and continues beyond to give general guidance on:

- The safety requirements for temporary structures;