



BSR ES1.19-2020, Safety Requirements for Special Event Structures

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Published by:

ESTA
630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609
New York, NY 10036 USA
Phone: 1-212-244-1505
Fax: 1-212-244-1502
standards@ESTA.org
<http://www.ESA.org/>

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The ESTA Technical Standards Program was created to serve the ESTA membership and the entertainment industry in technical standards related matters. The goal of the Program is to take a leading role regarding technology within the entertainment industry by creating recommended practices and standards, monitoring standards issues around the world on behalf of our members, and improving communications and safety within the industry. ESTA works closely with the technical standards efforts of other organizations within our industry, including ESA, USITT and VPLT, as well as representing the interests of ESTA members to ANSI, ICC, UL, and the NFPA. The Technical Standards Program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute.

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Jack Gallagher
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Eddie Kramer
Jason Kyle

LuxBalance Lighting
Tyrone Mellon, Jr.
Orange Pi DMX
Lizz Pittsley
Michael Skinner
Studio T+L
Terrier Marketing
Stephen Vanciel
Arjan van Vught

Planned Giving donor: Ken Vannice

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Contact Information

Technical Standards Manager

Karl G. Ruling
ESTA
630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 609
New York, NY 10036
Phone: 1-212-244-1505
FAX: 1-212-244-1502
standards@ESTA.org

Assistant Technical Standards Manager

Richard J. Nix
ESTA
630 Ninth Ave., Suite 609
New York, NY 10036
Phone: 1-212-244-1505
FAX: 1-212-244-1502
standards@ESTA.org

Technical Standards Council Co-Chairs

Mike Garl
Mike Garl Consulting LLC
Phone: 1-432-694-7070
mike@mikegarlconsulting.com

Mike Wood
Mike Wood Consulting LLC
Phone: 1-512-288-4916
mike@mikewoodconsulting.com

Event Safety Working Group Chair

Dr. Donald Cooper
Event Safety Alliance
1-330-414-8938
dcc1@neo.rr.com

Acknowledgments

The Event Safety Working Group members, when this document was approved by the working group on 09 March 2020, are shown below.

Voting members:

Jacob Abbott; PSAV Presentation Services; G
Steven A. Adelman; Adelman Law Group, PLLC; G
Mike Aug; Chicken Scratch LLC; EVP
Jesse Barnes; Safewise Risk Management, Inc; G
Alyxander Bear; Insomniac; EVP
Bennett Brian; Reed Rigging Inc.; DR
Christian A. Buschhoff; xEMP extra Entertainment Media Publishing oHG; G
Donald Cooper; Event Safety Alliance; G
Monique Corbeil; CITT/ICTS; G
Rebecca Cotter; City of Markham, Ontario; DE
Jeremy Dixon; Digital Sound Systems; DR
Don Earl; Earl Girls, Inc.; DR
Ethan W Gilson; Entertainment Rigging Services, LLC; DE
Sanford P. Gilzow; Shur-Rig LLC; DR
Joe Golden; Gallagher Staging & Productions; DE
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; G
Randell Greenlee; VPLT; G
Robert Haycock; UC Berkeley; EW
Danielle Hernandez; Furman University; G
Dominic Housiaux; Lankey & Limey, LTD; EVP
Neil Huff; Taylor & Taylor Insurance Brokers; INS
Cedric Jackson; Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television & Radio Artists; PA
Janine A. Jordan; Electronic Music Alliance; G
Eric Kant; Phase01 Crowd Management; DE
Daniel H. Louis; Theta Consulting LLC; G
Richard J. Nix; Richard J. Nix; G
Kevin Pew; Digital Sound Systems; DR
Jeffrey M. Reder; Clark-Reder Engineering, Inc.; DE
Ryan Riordan; Accurate Staging, Inc.; DR
Chris Schmidt; Freeman Companies; DR
Janet Sellery; CITT/ICTS; G
Steven Serafin; The Hartford Group; INS
Keith Sklar; Actors √ Equity Association; PA
Stewart Stephens; Ashford Management Group; G
Will Todd; Area Four Industries; EQP
Stephen Vanciel; IATSE Local 631; EW
Patrick Wallace; PSAV Presentation Services; G
Allen Winzler; Clark-Reder Engineering, Inc.; DE
Claire Wright; Buddy, LLC; EQP

Observer (non-voting) members

Brent Armstrong; Alpine Rigging & Structural Design; O; DE
Federico Augugliaro; Verity Studios AG; O; EQP
Evan Bailey; Disco Donnie Presents; O; DE
Justin Bennett; University of the Incarnate Word; O; EVP
Keith Bohn; Area Four Industries; O; EQP
Eric Colby; The Metropolitan Opera / Lincoln Center; O; EVP
Jim Digby; Event Safety Alliance; O; EVP

Douglas Frawley; Atomic Design; O; DE
Roderick van Gelder; Stage Safety pty ltd; O; DE
William B. Gorlin; M.G. McLaren, P.C.; O; G
Greg Guzzetta; Event Intelligence Group; O; EVP
Tim Hansen; Oasis Stage Werks; O; DR
Pete Happe; Pete Happe; O; G
Markus Hehn; Verity Studios AG; O; EQP
Karen Hoffman; Madison Square Garden Company; O; EVP
Edwin S. Kramer; 1501; O; EW
Jim Larkin; The Long Center for the Performing Arts; O; EVP
George Long; Aggreko; O; DR
Ross Long; I.A.T.S.E. Local 891; O; G
Diane K. Mack; Mack Strategies, LLC.; O; G
Franco Magliozzi; Chubb Group of Insurance Companies; O; INS
Bruno Marx; Eventknowhow; O; EVP
Orestes Mihaly; Production Resource Group; O; EVP
Kurt J. Miner; Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty; O; INS
Janine Ashley Oblak; Janine Ashley Oblak; O; EW
Erik Ornberg; Encore Event Technologies; O; DR
Don Parman; Actsafe; O; G
Miriam Paschetto; Geiger Engineers; O; DE
Dana Risinger; Walmart Stores, Inc.; O; EVP
Tim Roberts; The Event Safety Shop; O; G
Tim Salamon; PSAV Presentation Services; O; G
Jason Showers; Advanced Staging Productions; O; DE
Sean Spence; Full Spectrum Security Consultants; O; DE
Eric Stuart; Gentian Events Ltd; O; DE
Peter Willis; Howard Eaton Lighting Ltd.; O; EQP
Jeong Sik Yoo; Ghost LX; O; G
Andrew Young; Andrew Young; O; EW

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;