

DENVER SPECIAL EVENTS NOISE FACT SHEET

Special events are bound by the noise standards set by the Denver Revised Municipal Code, Chapter 36, enforced by Denver's Department of Environmental Health (DEH). All special events in Denver featuring amplified sound must comply with the Denver Noise Ordinance.

ALLOWABLE NOISE LEVELS

Mechanical sound and amplified sound (live entertainment and in-house audio systems) are regulated to 55 decibels dB(A) between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., and 50 dB(A) after 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. This is measured from the closest residential property.

Events that are open to the general public, has a permit for street closure or occupancy, and a license to serve food, beverage, or liquor may be eligible for an exempted event status.

Noise from exempted events is limited to:

- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. to 80 dB(A)
- 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. to 50 dB(A)
- 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. to 55 dB(A)

This is measured from the closest residential property.



To find out if the event qualifies for noise exemption, email phicommments@denvergov.org.

BEFORE THE EVENT

- DEH does not issue noise permits, but specific event information is beneficial to facilitate compliance with the noise ordinance and to avoid fines.
- This includes: detailed site maps that clearly show stage location, speaker location, generator or any other mechanical noise source location, and closest residential property locations for all four sides of the event.



- Event organizers should show the location of all stages, speakers, generators and any other mechanical noise source, as well as setup, teardown, rehearsal, and planned sound check times.

When planning an event, consider the impact that noise generated by the event may have on nearby residents. Event site location, and the type and position of potential noise sources should be considered. Organizers need to consider all potential noise sources, including music, people, speakers, generators, public address systems, etc. If there are residential properties close to the site, organizers need to take steps to reduce the impact the event will have on them. For example, speakers should be facing away from residences.

A list of events happening in the City and County of Denver can be found on the Office of Special Events website at www.denvergov.org/specialevents. To file a complaint about a special event, call 311 (720-913-1311).



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DURING THE EVENT

DEH investigators may monitor the event to ensure there are no unreasonable disturbances, and compliance with the ordinance is being maintained. The event organizer is responsible for having noise levels monitored and maintaining compliance. If an event does not comply, a DEH investigator may issue a written warning or order



to bring the event into compliance. Failure to comply may result in administrative citations or summons to court.

The event organizer or designated person in charge shall have full control over the sound amplification equipment. It is imperative that all staff (including individual sound engineers) involved with the sound system are informed of the sound level limits and that any instructions from DEH regarding sound levels are complied with.

DEH must have unrestricted access to the front of house position and backstage areas for sound level measurements, communications with the event organizer and/or sound engineer.

HOW ORGANIZERS CAN MONITOR EVENT NOISE LEVELS

To monitor event noise level, organizers can rent or purchase a Type I or Type II sound level meter. An acoustical consultant or professional can be hired to monitor the event.

Noise ordinance violations in the City and County of Denver could lead to fines up to \$999 per day.



For additional information on the noise program and fine schedule please visit DEH website at denvergov.org/PublicHealthInspections.

