

CITT BC Section H&S Day

Security session

Attendance:

Same as Roundtable.

Session began at approx 16:05.

Goal:

- To review security issues as they pertain to theatre H&S, and possibly come out with a list of best practices around venue security.
- Can we make a "Security Best Practices" document?
Well the consensus was "No.". We uncovered far too many variables and legal issues to make it practical

or safe to do so.

We did however identify some helpful tips and ways to decide if you should consider security for an event.

We also identified three types of event security:

1. Site security: Watches for vandalism, door access issues, parking etc.
2. Crowd Management: Stage divers, no in/out, removing patrons, direct intervention.
3. Personal security: Body guards and personal assistants. Used for backstage access, autograph sessions etc.

You may want to consider security for your event if.....

- Alcohol is being served.
- The event is sold-out or potentially over-sold.
- You want to limit access to any area of the venue.
- Threats of any sort have surfaced prior to the event. Bomb Threats, protests etc.
- The client has no references or history of safe events.

Some other useful tips:

- If an altercation breaks out, keep the show going, to help distract the audience.
- Ushers are NOT security guards!
- Your preferred security companies should have complete versions of your security plans and evacuation procedures.
- Clear roles for the security personnel need to be discussed before each deployment. Their shift supervisor (Crew Chief) should be able to relay these issues in the preshow briefing.
- Have a preshow briefing!
- Advise the local police of potential problems ahead of time.
- Make sure there are clauses covering the assessment for security in your contracts!
- Ensure your crew/staff have a safe place to lock themselves in for protection.

These were far from the only issues, but they were too numerous to cover in one document, never mind one meeting!

Where do we go from here?

Don Parman

