



NATHAN FLETCHER

CHAIR

**SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: November 3, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

**SECURING ENTERTAINMENT WORKER SAFETY AT COUNTY FACILITIES
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation manages 152 parks and preserves throughout San Diego County. These parks and preserves are a treasure for all residents, whether for hiking, camping, active recreation, weddings, or attending special events.

Special events are a common occurrence at Waterfront Park, among a handful of other parks. These events range from concerts and festivals to rallies and press conferences. It is an objective that the County of San Diego promotes safety standards and certifications to ensure that all programming and facilities are safe for employees, performers, and the public.

The creation and operation of many entertainment events involve complex audiovisual equipment and electrical systems. Rigging of equipment can be dangerous, and safety programs have been developed to ensure that employees have the knowledge and training to avoid an accident, either by employees or by performers. There have been multiple local accidents in which a lack of safety standards and certifications have led to accidents among workers.

There are two safety standards that are considered to be best practice within the entertainment industry, and today's action recommends the County of San Diego adopt these two standards for any events that involve complex equipment. Today's action would direct the Chief Administrative Officer to require that all entertainment employees, vendors, and subcontractors at County of San Diego facilities are certified under the Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) and Occupational Health and Safety Administration's (OSHA) 10-hour awareness course.

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**RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to require, as part of the existing reservation and event agreements with entertainment event vendors at San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation facilities certify that all entertainment electricians, portable power distribution technicians, arena rigging, and theatre rigging employees, and associated vendors and subcontractors, are certified under the Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) and Occupational Health and Safety Administration’s (OSHA) 10-hour awareness course, or a comparable safety certification if one of these programs is no longer functioning, upon the approval of the Parks and Recreation Director.
2. Adopt the Resolution titled: **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SECURING ENTERTAINMENT WORKER SAFETY AT COUNTY FACILITIES** (Attachment A).

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

All employees should feel confident they are employed in a workplace with rigorous labor and safety standards. Labor rights are fundamentally intertwined with civil rights. Over the past century, we have seen greater protections for workers including minimum wage and a forty-hour workweek. In 1970, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was created to “ensure safe and healthful working conditions for workers by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance.”

These standards have been vital to improving equity in the decades since. Vulnerable workers, either by immigration status, race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability, are empowered when safety standards are required.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today’s action.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

Today’s recommendation will improve business safety by ensuring that all employees, vendors, and subcontractors are adhering to the latest safety standards.

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

The creation and operation of many entertainment events involve complex audiovisual equipment and electrical systems. Rigging of equipment can be dangerous, and safety programs have been developed to ensure that employees have the knowledge and training to avoid an accident, either by employees or by performers. There have been multiple local accidents in which a lack of safety standards and certifications have led to accidents among workers.

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Given that there are multiple entertainment events that occur at facilities primarily managed by the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, it would behoove the County of San Diego to adopt these two standards for any entertainment events that involve complex equipment.

Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP)

Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) is the industry standard certification for Entertainment Riggers in both the Arena and Theater setting as well as Entertainment Electricians and Portable Power Technicians. These are the professions in the entertainment industry that pose the most hazards to the workers, the performers, and the audience, and as such need independent verification of skills and knowledge.

ETCP benefits all aspects of the entertainment industry. The program allows venues and municipalities the ability to set the standard of work for entertainment professions. It enables employers to independently assess a worker's skill and knowledge. The program grants workers an independent and transferable certificate verifying their skills.

The program is administered by the Entertainment Services and Technology Association (ESTA), an independent body of a collaboration between trade organizations, entertainment production companies, equipment manufacturers, vendors, and labor organizations. Its 500 members include every aspect of the entertainment industry. Additionally, ESTA oversees the only American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited Technical Standards Program (TSP) designed for the specific challenges of the entertainment industry.

The ETCP combines the industry standards created in the TSP with Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs authored by the National Commission for Certifying Agency. The merger of these standards creates a complete program that has strenuous requirements and a rigorous exam designed to demonstrate proficiency in the fields of Entertainment Rigging and Electrics.

OSHA 10

OSHA 10 is the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's (OSHA) 10-hour awareness course. It is designed to provide the worker with a general awareness of workplace safety. The worker will better be equipped to assess the working conditions that affect health and safety, their rights under the law, and the responsibilities of employers to provide the conditions that create a safe and healthful workplace. They will be aware of how to recognize hazards and how to engage with the employer to make sure the hazards are removed or that appropriate protective equipment is used. While any industry would benefit from a greater awareness of hazards, the entertainment industry, which relies on portable systems in a dynamic environment, necessitates as many individuals as possible to be aware of the safety hazards that could impact those systems.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed action to create new safety standards supports the Living Safely Strategic Initiative in the County of San Diego's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan by ensuring that all entertainment

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events are designed with worker and workplace safety in mind for employees, performers, and the public.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nathan Fletcher", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER
Supervisor, Fourth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment A. A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SECURING ENTERTAINMENT WORKER SAFETY AT COUNTY FACILITIES.