DENVER SPECIAL EVENTS

NOISE FACT SHEET

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 a.m. and 10 p.m., and 50 dB(A) after 10 p.m. until 7 a.m. at residential properties.

Events that are open to the general public, may be eligible for an exempted event status (see page 2 for details).

Noise from **exempted events** is limited to:

- 85 dB(A) from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 50 dB(A) from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- 55 dB(A) from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

All sound is measured from the closest residential property.

To find out if your event qualifies for a noise exemption, contact us at phicomments@denvergov.org

BEFORE THE EVENT

DDPHE 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.

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 may have on nearby residents. Site location and the type and position of potential noise sources should be considered. Organizers should consider all potential noise sources, including music, speakers, generators, public address systems, etc. If there are residential properties close to the site, organizers must take steps to reduce the impact. For example, speakers should be facing away from residences.

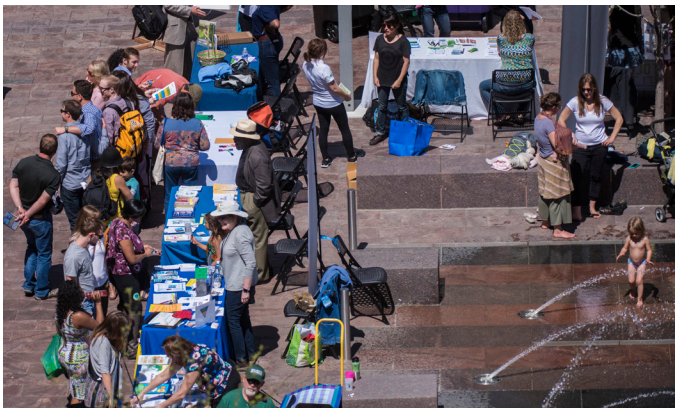
Special events are bound by the noise standards set by the Denver Revised Municipal Code, Chapter 36, enforced by Denver's Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE). All special events in Denver featuring amplified sound must comply with the Denver Noise Ordinance.

DURING THE EVENT

DDPHE 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 DDPHE 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 DDPHE regarding sound levels are complied with. DDPHE 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 ruse a sound level meter or a smartphone app, or 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 $5,000 per day**.



For additional information on the noise program and fine schedule, please visit us at denvergov.org/Noise

NOISE LIMITS AND TIMES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

For events that are **private and not open to the general public**, the normally allowed noise ordinance limits will apply when measured from the nearest residential property:

- 50 dB(A) from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- 55 dB(A) from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Properly permitted events that are on public property and open to the general public may qualify for the **"Public noise producing event"** exemption and the following times and the maximum noise levels will apply when measured from the nearest residential property:

- 85 dB(A) from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 50 dB(A) from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- 55 dB(A) from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

For properly permitted events that are open to the general public but **include any private property** within the event footprint, the "Public noise producing event" exemption may be allowed on the condition that:

- All necessary permits and/or licenses have been obtained from applicable city departments
- A Notice of Intent (NOI) form is filled out at http://bit.ly/NOI_NoiseEvent
- After 2 or more consecutive days of sound levels exceeding the normally allowed noise ordinance limits, a 30-day rest period must occur per location
- No more than 4 consecutive days of sound levels exceeding the normally allowed noise ordinance limits may occur per location, followed by a 30-day rest period
- No more than **8 total days per calendar year** of sound levels exceeding the normally allowed noiseordinance limits may occur per location

DENVER
PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

A list of events happening in the City and County of Denver is available at denvergov.org/specialevents.

To file a complaint about a special event, please call 311.