

Session: Site Planning

No. of attendees: 49

Presenters: Sam Gutman ,Colin Mathie, Chris Kerr, Dave Fortune

Facilitator: Catherine Roome

Monitor: Kathy Day

Time: 11.00am – 12.30pm

Sam

- Plan in advance, medical/risk assessment. Identify and resource accordingly.
- How does the event impact the surrounding community (i.e. small hospital/clinic in remote area – overwhelming the facility.)
- How do you transport?
- Only BCAS can transport on main roads,
- BCAS doesn't do first aid
- Helicopter? Weather dependant
- Time to get transport to site and to hospital

Colin

Anticipate the risk:

- Safety of people, participants, performers
- How it impacts everyone
- Need to pick and ID points that can be prepared for in advance, which saves money in the long run and don't gamble with 'it's never happened to me.'
- Assess the site
- Drawing it out, sight lines, layout etc
- How does that impact egress, site lines, crowd flow?
- When you pen people in (beer gardens etc) this leads to possible problems.
- It's easier to have extra safety measure on site (fencing, signs etc) and more cost effective to have them in advance
- Do all this within the budget, so what is put in place is appropriate

Chris

- The importance of your team
- Note – there are no educational requirements to be a production company
- Hire the right people, you can't do everything by yourself
- Take care of your people, partners, police, vendors, suppliers etc.
- When things go sideways, and they will, it's a matter of how far sideways. It's important to take care of your people so they have your back
- Has to be fun
- Surround yourself with good people

Dave

- Communicate, how you communicate what you need and/or want

- Be as safe as possible, a bad reputation kills events
- Create a fan first experience
- Entrance
- Traffic
- Will flow if organized well

Personal stories

Sam, 2010 games – 3-4 years of planning with a massive budget.

Mass gatherings occur all the time

More things will happen obviously

Very large groups outside the event/venue and how do we plan for this

News usually means bad stories

2010 – huge crush of people on a down slope and the barricade collapses. People fell on each other

- Used GPS tracking for medical dispatch and cleared the site within minutes. Preparation

Dave – 2010 – budget needs to reflect the need

Preparation for all possibilities

Plan in place

Response in place

Authority needs to recognize the intent of the law rather than the letter of the law

Colin:

Be dynamic at the same time. Don't plan whilst you're setting up

Weather – you can plan for it but you'll never know how it'll really go.

Demographics and numbers – where you place everything matters

One Direction – 50 000 people. An evening storm call came in the day before. Everything was secured – all went well. Day of concert – another storm call approaching. City and Fire want to stop the show.

No shelter, show is currently in progress (not the main act.)

Was able to clear out an area to shelter people. Arranged more transit.

Rec centres were made available to shelter people

Spoke to band, they cut the opening short, shortened main act to get show finished earlier.

Chris Kerr 'if you can't trust your team – you have the wrong team.'

– Asked to do a stadium show (when 27 years old.)

Worked with an artist who hadn't done a show in 30 years.

- Wasn't aware of budget impacts
- Hotels weren't booked, he ended up in student housing
- artist was awkward, event didn't go that well but the team stuck together.

Tours usually have a defined template;
Rock tour in Edmonton.

Lots of pyro was required, Fire Marshall had approved it, they had the world's best pyro technician, but the gas inspector (who was new and had never done a rock show before) found something wasn't CSA approved so gave it the red flag.

The artist said, no pyro, no show.

Everyone got together for a meeting and still wanted to go ahead with the show, everyone except gas inspector signed off. Had pumper truck, charged hoses, fire fighters on standby. They over-rode the red flag and the event turned out well.

Sam

- There's no standard for medical care and very loose guidelines
- There are however predictable incidents/risk/variables
- Falls between hospital and first aid
- Harm reduction is paramount

Colin

- Drug use is not something you can enforce or keep out
- Rather, harm reduction, educate
- Social media to get the message out
- Change the mindset of planners. Law enforcement varies from place to place (e.g. 7 abreast, full riot gear compared to tshirts on the sidelines hi-fiving kids suggesting giving them water.)

Chris

- Paid police for events, they just want to know what to expect
- Much of this still uncharted territory, communicate with all stakeholders, but talk and be honest.

Who has the authority to respond?

Sam – medical authority. Let most qualified jr member handle it, overseen by Dr.

Colin – integrated command plan

Dave – emergency plan, create the standard

Qu: is there room for public consultation in planning?

A: no neutral agent, probably wouldn't work

Qu: insurance providers? Who will cover?

A: Medical/communication/emergency plans need to be in place

Document plans in advance

Integrate appropriate response and document/stats – this is how we dealt with it in the past