

**Ministry of Labour**

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Dear City Clerks

The summer outdoor entertainment season is starting up. To protect both the public and workers, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing have been collaborating on a strategy to prevent failure of outdoor entertainment stages and ancillary structures. Previous collapses of these structures resulted in tragedies and raised issues and concerns regarding their structural stability, design, construction and maintenance.

As a result, the Ministry of Labour (MOL) requested that the Health and Safety Advisory Committee for Live Performance (Live Performance Committee) develop a guideline on temporary performance/event structures (temporary structures). The Live Performance Committee is comprised of live entertainment industry stakeholders and technical experts.

The resulting *Temporary Performance/Event Structures Safety Guideline for the Live Performance Industry* brings together ministry regulations and sets out industry best practices in regard to the design, planning, erection/construction, maintenance and disassembly of temporary structures. This guideline will provide reasonable precautions that the constructor/employer may use as guidance and will also help workplace parties understand their obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations as they relate to temporary structures. The guideline may be found at [http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/liveperformance/gl\\_live\\_structures.php](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/liveperformance/gl_live_structures.php) [http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/french/hs/pubs/liveperformance/gl\\_live\\_structures.php](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/french/hs/pubs/liveperformance/gl_live_structures.php).

If you are permitting/hosting an event in your municipality, please ensure that the MOL guideline is shared with the appropriate city and event staff.

Inspectors from the MOL will provide information on the guideline to the constructor/employer when they become aware that temporary structures exist or are being planned/erected in their area.

The MOL would appreciate being contacted by you about temporary structures that exist or are being planned/erected in your municipality. The MOL is most interested in being notified about temporary structures that:

1. will be used for multi-day events;
2. require large equipment, such as cranes, to assemble the temporary structure; or
3. require separate temporary structures for sound, lighting, pyrotechnics, video equipment, etc.

This information should be provided to the MOL Health and Safety Contact Centre toll-free at 1-877-202-0008.

Additionally, this guideline will be shared with both the Live Performance Committee and the Film and the Television Health and Safety Advisory Committee who will, in turn, share it with their unions and associations. WSN (Workplace Safety North), IHSA (Infrastructure Health and Safety Association), WSPS (Workplace Safety and Prevention Services) and PSHSA (Public Services Health and Safety Association) will be asked to share/advertise the guideline with their stakeholders as well.

MOL's guidelines are helpful in communicating and educating stakeholders on actions and precautions that should be taken when planning and holding temporary events. As we are entering the summer concert season, the *Temporary Performance/Event Structures Safety Guideline for the Live Performance Industry* should be shared immediately, and whenever a permit is issued for an outdoor event where a temporary structure may be erected.

Thank you for your assistance in sharing this guideline with the industry stakeholders.

If you have any questions, please contact Vivien Wharton-Szatan, a MOL Provincial Coordinator, at (416) 326-7904.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Wayne De L'Orme  
(A) Director