

Quick Thoughts on Attendee Safety at an Event

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Key Points to Keep in Mind

- Planned Indivisible events are meant to be peaceful. Please think about any actions, statements or signage that might inadvertently send a different message
- You are probably attending a 1st Amendment Rights event, with no permitting needed. The event will not have exclusivity to the locale.
- Any Emergency Services are from city services. There may be some small services available from event volunteers but if there is something serious (medical emergency, violence) you should call 9-1-1.
- *DO NOT ENGAGE* with agitators, counter-protesters or fellow attendees instigating violence



Potential Safety Concerns to Consider

Non-hostile:

- Traffic - to/from the event, getting to close to moving vehicles
- Weather - sun, heat, cold, wind. It's easy to forget to protect
- Personal Health - fitness, accessibility, known complications, food & hydration
- Crowds - poor communication, 'mind of their own'

Hostile - Counter protesters, agitators, 'lost tempers':

- Physical - individuals, groups, vehicles
- Mental - harassment, targeting, do not engage
- Electronic - attack on devices, tracking, privacy, recordings
- Remember hostility can be from both sides



Safety and Security Points

Have an emergency contact: This person should ideally be someone who is not attending the protest and is local to the area. They should know where the protest will be and when they should expect to hear from you throughout the day. They should also know your full legal name and date of birth (in case you go no-contact and they would like to check arrest records). For good measure, know their phone number by memory.

Ignore agitators and counter-protesters: At large protests in particular, it's not uncommon for other groups to show up, try to recruit people to their (tangentially related) cause, and generally start making things about them—whether by handing out literature, leading competing chants, or other similar strategies. Don't pay attention to them, don't talk to them, and don't follow them. Just let them be.

If you see anyone attempting to cause any trouble, leave them alone.



BEFORE THE EVENT

Know your Rights: Take time to familiarize yourself with your legal rights before attending.

Share your Location: Communicate with trusted emergency contacts about your location and return time. Write emergency contact information on your body in case of emergency.

Dress for the Event: Wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing. Closed-toe shoes are recommended for safety.

Items to Bring: Water, snacks, ID, emergency contact written on paper, hand sanitizer, face mask (as needed), any necessary medications.

Device Settings: Before attending, disable location services on all devices. Also turn off Face ID and fingerprint unlock to protect your privacy. Legal issue - you have to provide face, fingerprints, etc but you do not normally need to provide passwords.

Communication: Put your phone on airplane mode and disable it (when possible). Consider what your social media presence will or will not be.



What (Not) to Wear/Bring

Wear comfortable, practical, and nondescript clothing. Long pants and long sleeves are generally recommended, along with comfortable, closed-toed shoes. If spring has not yet sprung in your area, remember to bring a hat, gloves, and any other winter weather gear of your choosing.

Bring water and remember to drink it. It's a lot easier to get dehydrated when you're on your feet for a long time and there's a lot going on around you. If you feel yourself getting lightheaded or dizzy, find a safe place to sit down and rehydrate.

Pack a bag with all the necessary supplies. An extra battery pack for your (already fully-charged) phone, any prescription medications you might need (in their original, labeled bottles), bandaids & pain relief, snacks and, again, plenty of water!

Wear a mask? Protect yourself (and others!) from COVID-19, other viruses (measles?!?!?!), and pepper spray by wearing a medical-grade mask.

Note: If your city or state has [banned masks at protests](#), please proceed with caution. Many of these regulations stipulate that masks are banned for the purpose of "concealing identity," but that's not why you should wear one. A mask keeps you—and the people around you—safe



Title

Know your rights..and your risks

Disable biometric authentication on your phone. Make sure the only way to unlock your phone is with a passcode, not with your face or your fingerprint. Legally, it's more difficult for police to get into your phone if it's locked with a passcode

If you hear an order to disperse (which should only be issued by police in the face of an imminent threat to public safety), or notification from event organizers cancelling, calmly leave the area. If an order to disperse has not been issued, your movement should not be restricted and you should be free to leave the area whenever you choose.

Know exactly what to say to police: Stay calm. Don't argue, resist, or obstruct the police. Immediately ask for a lawyer. If a police officer asks you questions or you find your movement restricted, respond only with one or more of the following, depending on the circumstances:

- "Am I free to leave?"
- "Am I under arrest? For what crime?"
- "Can I have your name and badge number?"
- "I'm invoking my right to remain silent and would like to speak to a lawyer."
- "I do not consent to this search."
- *Treat police or any LEO with respect. Do not threaten, insult or provoke!*



During the Event

- **Stay Aware:** Observe your surroundings, locate nearest emergency exits. Stay Aware!
- **Buddy System:** Travel in groups when possible.
- **Stay Peaceful**
- **Directions:** Follow directions from protest organizers, observe posted signs, including traffic signage. Maybe look at a map ahead of time if unfamiliar terrain.
- **Other (lower-probability) concerns:**
 - ***** Tear Gas:** Move out of the gas cloud calmly—don't run. Change clothes as soon as possible. Take a cold shower for at least 20 minutes.
 - **** Active Shooter:** Run if you can. If not, hide.

Be proud: Protesting is your right, but it's not always easy. Take pride in raising your voice for what matters and in the steps you took to stay safe.



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After the Event

Stay close to others as much as possible leaving the event: Can you reach your transportation safely? Do you need assistance?

Are you still identifiable as having attended: Keep your guard up

Check-In: Let your remote contacts know you are safe. What about your buddy?

If your Rights Were Violated: Write everything down of what you can remember about the incident. Contact organizers, appropriate legal advisors or authorities



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If you get to in trouble or your rights are violated - Legal Solidarity Hotline Assistance

- <https://www.legalsolidaritybayarea.org/> Volunteer organization supporting Bay Area protests
- Liv Indivisible Safety Team has been requesting hotline support during rallies
- *This is only for initial help if arrested or harassed*
- Ph: (510) 250-1700, call collect if necessary
- They will accept collect calls for any Bay Area jail or prison



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On-Line Resources

- Some helpful websites for additional Information on attending events
 - Indivisible SF safety monitor training:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OO0jGBCwnuU>
 - Gandhi Team De-escalation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDoVnyVChgA>
 - Stand Up for Science Protest Guide:
https://standupforscience2025.org/protest-safety/?mc_cid=36ec495903
 - NorCal ACLU: https://www.aclunc.org/our-work/know-your-rights/know-your-rights-free-speech-protests-demonstrations?mc_cid=36ec495903



Liv Indivisible Safety Team

- **Who we are:** Volunteers from Livermore Indivisible watching out for safety concerns and non-peaceful behaviors, basic training on de-escalation
- **The mission:**
 - *Think* helper on a 4th grade field trip
 - A holistic approach combining peacekeeping and safety, looking out for issues that affect attendees
 - Act as a buffer between attendees, counter-protesters and possibly others intending disruption and harm
- **What we do and what we don't do:**
 - Not a 'security team,' no power other than persuasion
 - Willing to help and inform where we can, notification to event organizers on unsafe conditions, recommend instead of enforce
- **How to identify us at an event:** Probably wearing a bright vest with no 'statement', no sign



Things to Remember

- Stay Peaceful
- Stay Safe
- Stay Aware



BACKUPS for now



Safety is Personal

- Stay aware of your surroundings and what is happening around you, your group and to you.
- The most important determining factor in deciding how to respond to threat is the impact it is having on you.
- Regardless of what others may think if it is having a negative effect on you then that is sufficient enough for you to take action or leave.