



## Guidelines for Safer Moshing Environments

### Public Buildings

### Environmental Health Guide

Most people associated with concert events are aware that a teenager died as a result of an incident at the Big Day Out Event in Sydney on 26 January 2001.

Many people attribute this to crushing in the mosh pit. This may or may not be the case. The facts are yet to be published.

However, following this incident there has been an unprecedented focus on mosh pit safety. There are two major areas of concern, crowd surfing and crushing. Stage diving is another activity but this appears to have died following serious injuries to high profile performers and large law suites from injured patrons.

There are some indisputable facts about mosh pits.

- Crowd surfing is dangerous
- Many people have been killed and many more have been permanently disabled due to activities in these areas.
- The size of the crowd is not relevant, major injuries have occurred at relatively small events with 500 or less people.

Crowd surfing has become an accepted thing for many people and this group will not readily accept change.

The Big Day Out in Perth on 4 February 2001 introduced several ways to reduce the harm in their mosh pits, these issues have been promoted on several occasions by this Department with limited success due to promoters and local government not being prepared to adopt the safer procedures.

The measures introduced at the Perth Big Day Out played a considerable part in reducing the number of injuries compared to those received at previous events. It is most strongly recommended that the following procedures are implemented at all concerts forthwith. Failure to do so may result in serious financial consequences in the event of a subsequent injury and claim from an injured patron.

1. Patrons must be advised that crowd surfing is dangerous and will not be tolerated. Appropriate signs and announcements prior to the start of each event/act are recommended.
2. Patrons at the stage barrier must be monitored and water administered to those in need.
3. Hosing/drenching of mosh pit patrons is not recommended as this creates a humid effect in the already hot environment but light spraying with potable water is recommended.
4. First aid must be located adjacent the stage crowd barrier.
5. Patrons should be advised that mosh pits are dangerous, be considerate to those around you, if you notice someone in trouble, lend assistance and seek help from a crowd controller or first aid officer.
6. Crowd controllers must be familiar with mosh pit environments.
7. Performers and crowd control, event managers must monitor the situation and be prepared to stop the event in the interests of safety. Safety must always be the first consideration.



8. Identify the person with the ultimate responsibility for safety prior to the event.
9. Ensure that there is an adequate distance between the stage barrier and stage to allow crowd controllers to operate effectively - no less than 1.5 metres.
10. There must be no protrusions from the stage that will injure people crashing into the pit.
11. The crowd barrier must be an approved type and must be checked for finger entrapment and sharp protrusions.

The following definitions are included for clarification.

- Mosh pit:** audience area in front of the stage.
- Stage barrier:** also known as a crowd barrier - a barrier placed in front of the stage to prevent patrons accessing the stage. Barriers must be equipped with a raised area to enable crowd controllers to be higher than the crowd.
- Pit:** area between the stage and crowd barrier. The area occupied by the stage crowd controllers.

In addition to the above it is strongly recommended that events comply with the Operational Guidelines for Rave Parties, Concerts and Other Large Events 1995 with particular attention given to the following issues for outdoor summer events.

#### **Dousing Station**

A dousing station should be established. These are simply locations where patrons can be sprayed with potable water, usually simple reticulation fittings are arranged to produce a fine spray or mist through which patrons walk. Hard standing areas are recommended to avoid slushy ground. Care needs to be taken to dispose of the wastewater in an appropriate matter.

#### **Drinking Water**

Free drinking water should be available at specific areas. Patrons should not be required to access drinking water at hand wash basins in toilet facilities.

#### **Shade**

Shade must be provided to allow some relief from hot sun.

## **For further information contact**

Environmental Health Directorate  
Department of Health  
PO Box 8172  
Perth Business Centre  
Perth WA 6849.

Phone: (08) 9388 4999  
Fax: (08) 9388 4955

Produced by Environmental Health Directorate  
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