

## Protest Safety

For events involving First Amendment protected activities, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) recognizes individuals have constitutionally protected rights to assemble, speak, and petition the government. LVMPD safeguards these rights. The following provides guidance to assist in safely exercising these rights.

### Are weapons allowed?

- Certain items are considered to be weapons and are **prohibited**, including:
  - Sticks
  - Wood/lumber larger than ½" thick and 2" wide
  - Metal or plastic pipe unless less than ½" thick and hollow used to support a banner or flag
  - Baseball bats unless foam, paper, or plastic
  - Aerosol spray, mace, or pepper spray unless 0.5 ounce or less
  - Chains
  - Bricks
  - Rocks
  - Glass bottles
  - Pieces of asphalt
  - Concrete
  - Shields made of metal, wood, or hard plastic
  - Projectile launchers
  - Wrist rocket/slingshot
  - Catapult
  - Knives (over 3" blade)
  - Box cutters
  - Ice picks
  - Axes
  - Tasers
  - Stun guns
  - Pellet guns
  - Bottles filled with any flammable, biohazard, or noxious matter with intent to throw or disperse
  - Flame torches and lanterns (excluding candles)

### What traffic laws are in effect?

- All traffic laws are still applicable during a protest event. Participants must:
  - Stay on the sidewalks and not walk in the roadway or block private driveways.
  - Obey all traffic control devices.
  - Not attempt to walk in front of vehicular traffic or impede traffic.

### When does a protest turn illegal?

- Examples of an activity that turns a protest illegal include:
  - Continued violations of traffic laws, e.g., seizing an intersection to impede traffic.
  - Damaging property.
  - Harming others participating in the event or bystanders.
  - Throwing rocks, bottles, or other items at persons or property.

### When will a dispersal order be issued?

- An order to disperse will only be given if illegal activity is occurring in the protest.
- Weapons, traffic violations, and other activity described above are all considerations before declaring an assembly as unlawful.
- Only a uniformed officer may give a dispersal order.
- The order will be read in both English and Spanish at 10-minute intervals when possible.
- The dispersal order may be repeated depending on the acts being committed, and action may be taken after the first warning.

**Once illegal activity occurs at the protest, and a dispersal order is given, all persons in the immediate area must leave. Failure to leave after a dispersal order is given is a misdemeanor offense and could result in arrest or citation.**