

Protest Safety



The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) acknowledges the constitutionally protected rights to assemble, speak, and petition the government for events involving First Amendment-protected activities. The department is committed to safeguarding these rights, including by providing guidance to assist in safely exercising them.

Are weapons allowed?

- Certain items are considered to be weapons and are **prohibited**, including:
 - Sticks
 - Wood/lumber larger than ½" thick and 2" wide (regardless of length)
 - Metal pipes
 - Plastic pipes unless less than ¾" thick and hollow used to support a sign, banner, or flag (regardless of length)
 - Aerosol spray, mace, or pepper spray unless 0.5 ounce or less
 - Chains
 - Bricks
 - Rocks
 - Glass bottles
 - Concrete/pieces of asphalt
 - Batteries
 - Shields made of metal, wood, or hard plastic
 - Projectile launchers
 - Wrist rocket/slingshot
 - Catapult
 - Knives (over 3" blade)
 - Frozen water bottles
 - Box cutters, ice picks
 - Baseball bats unless foam, paper, or plastic
 - 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)
 - Umbrellas

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 vehicle traffic or impede traffic.

When does a protest turn illegal?

- Examples of an activity that turns a protest unlawful include:
 - Continued violations of traffic laws (e.g., seizing an intersection to impede traffic).
 - Damaging property.
 - Harming bystanders or others participating in the event.
 - Throwing rocks, bottles, or other items at persons or property.
- Obstructing access to a public building.
- Disturbing the peace or normal operations within or around a public building.

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 considerations before declaring an assembly as unlawful.
- Only a uniformed officer may give a dispersal order.
- The dispersal order may be repeated depending on the unlawful acts being committed.
- After a dispersal order has been issued, all persons present must leave the area and the unlawful assembly.
- If there is an immediate threat of physical harm or death to a person, then no dispersal order needs to be provided before police take enforcement action.

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.