



# 2014

CROWD SAFETY GUIDE

ACCIDENTATTORNEYS.ORG

## Enjoy 2014's Historic Moments... And Stay Safe

This is going to be an incredible year for Americans on the world stage! First, we have [Super Bowl XLVIII](#) on February 2. Then, around the globe, our country's best athletes will compete for gold in the [Olympic Games](#) being held in Sochi, Russia. On March 2, the world will watch as Hollywood hosts the 86<sup>th</sup> [Academy Awards](#). And finally, in July, soccer fanatics flock to Brazil for the [World Cup](#).

Anyone lucky enough to attend one of these events in person is probably about to experience a once-in-a-lifetime moment. But before you get swept away by the celebrities, the athletes, the new cultures and the buzz of competition, take some time to consider your personal safety.

Large crowds, by nature, can suddenly turn dangerous. Accidents can easily occur, groups can get separated, and crowds can become violent when they get wrapped up in the excitement of the event. There is always the risk of medical emergencies, getting lost, vicious weather patterns and sadly, intentional criminal and terrorist attacks.

But no one wants to say, "I decided not to attend the Super Bowl because I worried that something bad might happen." Instead, plan ahead for your safety! By memorizing some important safety tips before you go, you can minimize your chance of getting hurt in a crowded event.

---

### What You'll Find Inside

General Crowd Safety

Super Bowl XLVIII

International Travel to World Events

Tips for Keeping Children Safe

Crowd Safety Checklist

---

Brought to you by

**ACCIDENTATTORNEYS** ORG



## GENERAL CROWD SAFETY

When attending a crowded event, keep the following in mind:

### **Carry Cash Cautiously**

Avoid carrying large amounts of money or other valuables. Consider keeping money in a hotel safe or dividing it up and placing it in several different locations on your person. Also, keep copies of passports, visas, credit cards and other important documents in a secure location so that you can be identified if your original documents are lost or stolen.

### **Choose a Meeting Spot**

Pick a spot where you and your friends and family who attend the event together will meet if you get separated. It is best to choose two places, one inside the event and one outside, in case you have to evacuate the event or somehow get stuck outside and can't get back in. Do not assume that you will be able to communicate by cell phone. Phones can get lost or broken, the battery may run down, or you may lose signal.

### **Identify the Exits**

Identify all of the possible exits. Be sure to find the exits that are closest to where you will be, keeping an eye out for any side exits or those off the beaten path – the main exits are more likely to be blocked by crowds rushing to get out in an emergency. Also look for potential ways out that are not official exits, such as windows, in case you cannot get to an exit.

### **Be Aware**

Pay attention to the people around you. Be on the lookout for odd or agitated behavior. If someone's behavior makes you uncomfortable, get away from him or her. If you notice abandoned items, such as bags, backpacks, or packages, report them to security. Do not touch these items.



## SUPER BOWL XLVIII

Super Bowl XLVIII is going to be unique. It will be the first cold weather Super Bowl in an outdoor open air stadium. Fans travelling from all over the country need to prepare for weather conditions that they may not be used to. The big game will take place on February 2, 2014 at the [MetLife Stadium](#), and is hosted by both New Jersey and New York. Some advanced planning can go a long way in ensuring that you enjoy a safe Super Bowl.

### Transportation

Whether you fly or drive to the NJ/NY area, when it comes to getting to the game itself, consider taking the [Fan Express](#) bus or [NJ Transit](#). Navigating unfamiliar roads with extremely busy traffic, and possibly hazardous [weather conditions](#), puts you at high risk for an accident, getting lost, or missing the game.

### Dressing for the Game

Dress warmly and in layers. Be prepared for anything from below freezing to temperatures in the 40s. You could be in for heavy snow or sunshine. Make sure you have a warm coat that will protect you from getting wet in the snow. Bring a hat, scarf, and gloves or mittens and wear warm socks to prevent frostbite. Consider bringing a blanket. Hand warmers are a great investment too.

### Get a Flu Shot

February is peak flu season and you'll likely be cold, surrounded by hundreds of people who may not be completely healthy. Protect your health by getting a flu shot.

### Be Prepared to Purchase Necessities

It is very important that you stay hydrated and eat plenty of food on game day. It will help you handle the weather conditions. However, you will not be able to bring your own food and beverages. Be prepared to purchase plenty for yourself and your family. The NFL has very strict rules on what you can bring into the stadium, including specific rules on the size and type of bag you can bring... kind of like going to the airport, but worse. There is an exception for medically necessary items.





## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO WORLD EVENTS

Traveling to another country is naturally loaded with potential risks. Add to that a crowded event attracting the world's attention and it's even more important that you take precautions to stay safe.

### **Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia**

At least 31 people have been killed and over 60 injured in two linked suicide bombings which occurred less than 24 hours apart in Volgograd, Russia, on December 29th and 30th. Although 400 miles away from Sochi, Volgograd, formerly known as Stalingrad, is a main transit point for travel to Sochi by train, and a key transport hub for southern Russia. Now, some are questioning whether adequate security is even possible for athletes and spectators at the games.

### **Avoid Rail Travel Between Moscow and Sochi**

While the games are likely to be very secure, areas outside of the games are a different story. The biggest danger may lie in travel to Sochi from international airports. Olympic tourists are advised to avoid rail travel between Moscow and Sochi, and to avoid mass gatherings outside of the games' venues. Anywhere that tourists are likely to spend their spend time may be potential targets for terrorists.

### **Enroll in STEP**

The U.S. State Department says: "We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Russia enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). STEP enrollment allows you to receive the Department's safety and security updates, and makes it easier for the nearest U.S. embassy or U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you do not have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate."

### **Do You Have Overseas Medical Insurance Coverage?**

Ask your medical insurance company if your policy applies overseas and if it covers emergency expenses such as medical evacuation. If it does not, consider supplemental insurance.

### **Check the Department of State Website Daily**

Before, during and immediately after the Olympic Games, the American government will be posting any alerts or warnings on the [Department of State website](#). Every morning, before you head out check the website for new information that can keep you safe.

## World Cup in Brazil

The World Cup will be held in cities across Brazil between July 6 and 14, 2014. Depending on your destination, your safety precautions may need to change.

### Get to Know Your Destination City

Study the city and neighborhoods that you will be visiting. You should also look into the crime rates around the stadium where you'll be watching the game. Each city has its own character – and crime trends!

### Don't Make Yourself a Target

Don't wear flashy jewelry and avoid carrying a purse. You should also wear your camera around your neck or stow it in a bag that you can carry tightly.

### Study Your Travel Options

In some Brazilian cities, the bus systems are quite safe. In others, you'd be most safe by taking a taxi, which are many times quite affordable.

### Do You Have Overseas Medical Insurance Coverage?

Ask your medical insurance company if your policy applies overseas and if it covers emergency expenses such as medical evacuation. If it does not, consider supplemental insurance.

### Additional Resources

- [Official World Cup Website](#)
- [List of World Cup Host Cities](#)
- [U.S. Embassy in Brazil, Messages and Travel Alerts](#)
- [Department of State's Travel Website](#)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#)
- [Worldwide Caution:](#)
- [State Department's Traveler Checklist](#)





## TIPS FOR KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

No matter where you're headed, crowds and kids can be a tough combination to control. Here are a few quick tips for keep your children safe:

### **Give Them an Identity**

You carry an ID, children should, too. Purchase your child a belt pack that is easy to wear under clothing and, in it, put some extra cash and a sheet of paper with the following information: The child's name and date of birth, photo of everyone in the traveling party, contact information for the people he/she is traveling with, and an emergency contact for someone not among the traveling party.

### **Make Them Easy to Find in a Crowd**

Dress your child in bright tops and hats. Buy some of those glow necklaces so that you can easily find your child in the crowd, especially at night.

### **Give Your Child Tools to Stay Safe**

Talk to your child about crowd safety and what to do if you get separated. Teach them to look for other moms with children and ask for help. Show them what the police look like at the venue where you're attending an event and let them know it's safe to ask the police for help. You could even write your cell phone number on his/her arm because kids can become quite agitated when they get lost, causing them to forget your number.

## Crowd Safety Checklist

- Print And Review Before Your Next Big Event -

	Before you leave for the event, tell someone where you will be and when you expect to be back.
	Check online to learn the rules of the venue before you go, especially what you can bring.
	Dress appropriately for the weather. Dress in layers so you can adjust if you get too warm.
	If the venue allows you to bring your own water, be sure to bring plenty. Be prepared to buy more inside.
	Locate emergency exits and any alternative means of escape should something happen.
	Locate first aid stations.
	If you are not on the ground floor, locate stairwells even if you normally take the elevator.
	Stay sober.
	Keep an eye on your drink at all times so that it is not tampered with.
	Know how to contact security personnel. Some venues have emergency texting numbers or phones.
	Choose a meeting place inside the event in case you get separated from your party.
	Also, choose a meeting place outside the event in case you have to evacuate.
	Have a means of communication such as a fully charged cell phone, but also have a backup plan.
	If possible, have a contact person who is not attending that everyone knows how to reach.
	Take pictures of the people you are with in case someone goes missing.
	If you see someone or something that looks suspicious, report it.
	If you must evacuate, get out quickly, but try to stay out of the main flow of traffic.

Have You Been Hurt?



Use This QR Code To  
Get Legal Help Now.

### Helpful Notes

\_\_\_\_\_ Parking Spot Number

\_\_\_\_\_ Gate Name or Number