



Super Bowl LVI

February 2022

SUPER BOWL LVI – EVENT ASSESSMENT

Executive Summary

Super Bowl LVI is scheduled to take place on February 13, 2022, at the SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, the home stadium of the Rams, marking the second-consecutive and second overall Super Bowl to feature a team playing in its home stadium. Unlike the previous year, attendance at the game will not be limited due to COVID-19 impact, however vaccine, masking, and testing requirements are in place.

Super Bowl LVI is categorized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as being of the highest threat level to public safety, and security is expected to be heavy within Los Angeles and the surrounding region. At the time of this report, there were no credible threats associated with the Super Bowl; however, attendees and locals need to be aware of possible physical security and cyber-related concerns surrounding the event.

Security Preparations

The Super Bowl has historically been designated as a Level One Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) event, as determined by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This designation is based on a number of factors, including anticipated attendance by dignitaries; the size, significance, and duration of the event; availability of state and local resources; and multiplicity of jurisdictions needing coordination. This designation means that additional federal resources are made available to the host, as well as federal involvement and authority in the public safety planning and response. The DHS has again assigned this year's Super Bowl a Level One SEAR rating, meaning it presents the highest public safety risk and will require extensive federal interagency support.¹ The Super Bowl's Los Angeles, California, location is comprised of multiple law enforcement jurisdictions and has the potential to bring in 150,000 visitors and significantly increase traffic, which makes security planning challenging.

The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)'s Region 9 (Los Angeles District) staff will be supporting local security efforts for Super Bowl LVI, which is

¹ https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19_0905_ops_sear-fact-sheet.pdf

being held at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California.² Completed in July 2020, SoFi Stadium is the National Football League's (NFL) newest, state-of-the-art facility and features a 70,000-seat stadium (expandable to 100,240) and YouTube Theater, an indoor music and theater venue. SoFi is 3.1 million square feet in size on a 298-acre lot and is set 100 feet below grade to accommodate the flight path to Los Angeles International Airport.³

In preparation for the event, Region 9 has conducted physical security assessments of SoFi Stadium using an Infrastructure Survey Tool and the Infrastructure Visualization platform. Additionally, collaboration efforts with CISA's Office for Bombing prevention (OBP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center built a 3D model of the stadium, which was used to create a blast effects analysis to mitigate the threat of potential explosive devices. Furthermore, exercises were coordinated with the Federal Bureau of Investigations, U.S. Secret Service, DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis, and NFL Global Security to provide threat and resilience briefs for both physical and cyber concerns. Furthermore, Region 9's staff will continue to conduct training exercises in both physical and cybersecurity to help prepare Inglewood and downtown Los Angeles for potential threats related to hosting the Super Bowl.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the investigative arm of DHS, began investigations into counterfeit goods as early as December 2021. At the 2020 Super Bowl in Miami, federal agents worked with local law enforcement and seized USD 123million in counterfeit Super Bowl merchandise. HSI has stated that they will be working with the NFL to identify legitimate brand holders and retailers to determine the legitimacy of the goods.

Additionally, HSI has also taken part in human trafficking awareness training sessions in partnership with Blue Lightning Initiative (BLI).⁴ BLI trains aviation personnel to identify potential human traffickers and victims and report their suspicions to federal law enforcement. More than 150 frontline personnel from Los Angeles International Airport and other aviation entities took part in the training sessions.

² <https://www.cisa.gov/region-9-gears-super-bowl-lvi-2022>

³ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelgoldstein/2021/12/29/will-the-horrendous-traffic-situation-at-sofi-stadium-ruin-las-super-bowl/>

⁴ <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHS/bulletins/3053e43>

The NFL has stated that security screening in and around SoFi Stadium will be heightened for Super Bowl LVI. Personal belongings of attendees will be inspected, and certain items will not be permitted into the stadium, including—but not limited to—alcohol, illegal substances, food, fireworks, firearms, weapons, knives, and explosives.⁵

Transportation

Super Bowl organizers encourage attendees to get to the game via Metro or plan their transportation in advance, as SoFi Stadium has limited onsite parking.

The Super Bowl Committee is offering shuttle services from various parking locations outside the stadium, which can be found at parksuperbowl.com. The general public can now purchase parking permits and shuttle passes, and access code sales began on Jan. 18.

Taxi and ridesharing will be available for pick up and drop off to the stadium. The taxi and rideshare pick up and drop off is located on Kareem Court just north of the stadium. Rideshare will drop off and pick up fans on the western lane of Kareem Court. Rideshare is defined by three zones. Fans and drivers will need to indicate the zone for drop off and pick up. Taxis and rideshare vehicles will approach the Kareem Court drop off and pick up location via westbound Pincay Ave.

For those looking to travel to the Super Bowl Experience at the LA Convention Center, officials also recommend that individuals use public transportation, as there is no parking available for non-ADA visitors.

Visitors can take the LA Metro to the LA Convention Center by connecting to the A Line (Blue) or E Line (Expo) and exiting at Pico Station. They can also take the J Line (Silver) and exit at Flower/Pico.

LA's Metrolink is offering a special \$USD 8.00 Day-Pass for staff, volunteers, and fans attending the Super Bowl Experience in Downtown LA. The Super Bowl Experience ticket will be available exclusively on the Metrolink App on February 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12, 2022, valid from anywhere on the Metrolink system to LA Union Station and includes transfer connections.

⁵ <https://www.nfl.com/super-bowl/event-info/security-procedures>

To get to the LA Convention Center via Metrolink, first take the route of your choice to LA Union Station. Next, transfer for free onto Metro B (Red) or D (Purple) Line and exit the train at 7th Street/Metro Center Station after three stops. Last, transfer again upstairs onto Metro A (Blue) or E (Expo) Line and exit the train at Pico Station after one stop. The LA Convention Center is one block away on Figueroa St.

Parking

Parking at the stadium itself is extremely limited. Visitors must have a parking pass and an event ticket to gain entry to any of the seven parking zones on site. The stadium will sell spots on Super Bowl Sunday if any remain unsold, but there is no guarantee of availability. The prices for on-site parking are:

- Standard Automobile: USD 120
- Limousine or Sprinter Van: USD 240
- Minibus: USD 300
- Bus: USD 360

Offsite parking is available around Inglewood and Los Angeles, which will cost between USD 40 and USD 60. The lots open at 10:30 a.m., with shuttle service to the stadium beginning at 11 a.m.

To help people who park off-site, SoFi Stadium offers four different shuttle services. One of them, the Blue Shuttle, is run by the stadium itself. The Purple Shuttle is run by the City of Inglewood and LAZ Parking, and the other two are run in collaboration with the city of Gardena and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Two Blue Shuttle buses serve three lots in the city of Los Angeles not far from the stadium. The 111th Street shuttle serves the 111th Street Parking Lot at 5455 W. 111th St.; the 98th Street shuttle serves two lots: the Airport Spectrum Parking Garage at 5757 W. Century Blvd. and the Hilton Airport Parking Garage at 5711 W. Century Blvd. Parking in any of these lots is USD 40, and the round-trip shuttle ride costs USD10. Visitors will be dropped off and picked up in Lot J at the stadium.

The Purple Shuttle runs between the Purple Shuttle Lot at the stadium and the following six IPARK&GO parking lots:

- Inglewood:
 - Civic Center Garage, 1 W. Manchester Blvd.
 - Locust St. Garage, 115 S. Locust St.
 - Senior Center Garage, 333 E. Queen St.
 - Public Library, 101 W. Manchester Blvd.
- El Segundo:
 - Flyte Garage, 2230 E. Imperial Hwy.
- Playa Vista:
 - Playa District Garage, 6870 Park Terrace

Spots and passes for the shuttle need to be reserved ahead of time. The price of the shuttle pass is for a round trip, and each person needs a separate pass.

Road Closures

Traffic conditions on Super Bowl LVI game day are expected to be similar or better than traffic conditions on regular game days at SoFi Stadium. Traffic trends surrounding the Super Bowl are traditionally very different from regular large-capacity entertainment events. A significant number of Super Bowl ticket holders attend as part of corporate-sponsored groups. These groups are transported to the event on large, chartered buses, many of which are hired by NFL to transport ticket holders. As a result, there will be fewer individual vehicles traveling to the area and requiring parking accommodations.

Residents are advised to avoid the area surrounding SoFi Stadium, and to plan alternate routes to avoid street closures. However, overall impact to nearby residents will be minimal. The City of Inglewood and the NFL have developed a comprehensive traffic mitigation plan that will greatly ease congestion in the areas surrounding SoFi Stadium.

The following street closures are currently scheduled to take place:

START DATE	END DATE	ROADWAY	TYPE
02/10/2022 8:00am	02/10/2022 8:00pm	Yukon Ave. from W Century Blvd to Stadium Drive	Road Restriction: Closed to General Public
02/10/2022 8:00am	02/10/2022 10:00pm	Prairie Ave. from Victory St. to Touchdown Dr.	Lane Closure
02/10/2022 8:00am	02/10/2022 at 8:00pm	Stadium Dr. from S Doty Ave. to Entrance of Panhandle Lot	Road Restriction: Closed to General Public
02/13/2022 1:00am	02/14/2022 at 2:00am	Northbound lanes of Prairie Ave. from Century Blvd. to Arbor Vitae St.	Lane Closure
02/13/2022 7:00am	02/14/2022 at 2:00am	Century Blvd. from Yukon Ave. to Airport Blvd.	Lane Closure
02/13/2022 7:00am	02/14/2022 at 2:00am	98th St. from Bellanca Ave. to east of Flying Food Group	Curb Lane Closure
02/13/2022 10:00am	02/14/2022 at 1:00am	Kareem Ct. from Manchester Ave. to Pincay Dr.	Road Restriction
02/13/2022 4:00pm	02/14/2022 at 2:00am	Manchester Ave. from Prairie Ave. to Crenshaw Blvd.	Lane Closure
02/13/2022 12:00am	02/14/2022 at 2:00am	Pincay Drive from Prairie Ave. to Kareem Ct.	Road Restriction
02/13/2022 4:00pm	02/14/2022 at 2:00am	Northbound lanes of Prairie Ave. from W 106th St. to Century Blvd.	Lane Closure

COVID-19 Impact

In early January 2022, the uptick in COVID-19 cases across the United States caused the NFL to consider contingency location options for the 2022 Super Bowl. However, recent statements by NFL officials have indicated that the game will be held at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles as planned. The NFL appears to be complying with the guidelines set forth by the California Department of Health, which has jurisdiction over the policies for gatherings and large events in the area.

According to information available on the stadium's website, the venue's operators instituted a new COVID-19 policy beginning on December 15, 2021. In order to access the venue, each spectator over the age of five must present proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test. All individuals presenting proof of vaccination must have received the final dose of their vaccine series 14 days prior to the start of the event. Furthermore, for those presenting testing documentation, an antigen test may be taken up to 24 hours prior to the event, and a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test may be taken up to 48 hours prior to the event. At-home tests are not considered an acceptable form of testing for entry into the venue. In addition to proof of vaccination or testing documentation, all spectators over the age of 18 must also present a valid form of identification. During the event, all spectators must wear a mask unless actively eating or drinking.

While these are the current guidelines, it is possible that the NFL or the venue operator could change their policies to adapt to rules set forth by the California Department of Health. Due to the rapidly changing nature of COVID-19, this information should be verified closer to the event date to ensure that there have not been any last-minute changes in policy.

Terrorism

ZeroFox has identified no evidence of terrorist threats made against the upcoming Super Bowl LVI. Totemic targets of this nature with a global audience and that involve the mass-gathering of spectators represent an attractive target for terrorist actors. While there have been no previous incidents against the Super Bowl, attacks against sporting events and stadia have occurred, including in the United States (Atlanta, 1996) and, more recently, in Europe (Paris, 2015).

The threat from organized terrorist groups is low. While a number of overseas jihadist terrorist organizations, such as Al-Qaeda (AQ) and the Islamic State (IS), frequently encourage attacks against high-profile targets due to the shock and awe potential, they are unlikely to be able to mount an attack against the Super Bowl directed by core leadership. It is unlikely that domestic terrorist organizations would seek to target Super Bowl LVI, and group protest activity is likely to be disruptive rather than life-endangering.

Terrorist organization supporter groups and individuals may release “fanboy” media graphics or statements on private platforms threatening an attack. This trend is common with major world events, including holidays, large sporting competitions, or other national celebrations. The greatest threat to Super Bowl LVI comes from individuals galvanized and inspired by this rhetoric targeting the venue or areas where spectators have gathered to celebrate. Lone-wolf attacks are difficult to identify and mitigate due to the limited circle that has knowledge of the attack planning. Following such attacks, terrorist organizations will frequently claim the attack as their own to garner additional publicity and outwardly portray strength. Further investigations later call into question the claimed affiliation. It is possible that—should authorities decide to limit spectator attendance—would-be inspired attackers may be persuaded from targeting the event.

An attack would most likely involve the use of easily accessible materials, such as bladed weapons, firearms, or rudimentary improvised explosive devices (IED). ZeroFox also notes the potential for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, such as drones to be used by threat actors—most likely in a disruptive capacity by flying over or in the vicinity of the event rather than as a threat to life. It is also possible vehicles could be used as a weapon to target spectators, related events, or associated facilities in the area surrounding the SoFi Stadium.

Cyber Threats

While ZeroFox did not identify any planned cyber-attacks targeting the SoFi Stadium infrastructure, NFL fans need to exhibit caution due to variety of scams typically observed ahead of the game. Threat actors can capitalize on Super Bowl LVI by launching phishing websites that impersonate the NFL or sponsors' logos, as well as prey on fans via ticket scams. Previously, phishers impersonated ticket-selling websites that claimed to sell tickets but instead steal financial credentials from victims, who believe the phish is coming from a legitimate retailer. Although event coordinators encourage fans to buy Super Bowl LVI tickets via the NFL's website or authorized sellers only, some may choose to purchase tickets from a secondary marketplace. These secondary avenues may sell counterfeit tickets or steal credit card information from buyers. Ohio Attorney General David Yost is warning football fans about ticket scams for the game but said no scams have been reported to his office yet.



Rogue mobile apps may also pose a threat to Super Bowl fans attempting to stream the game for free or to bypass restrictions on legitimate applications. To mitigate the risk of cyber threats, Super Bowl attendees and fans must use caution when downloading unverified apps, using services that are not authorized by the NFL, and supporting sponsors. Rogue mobile applications are often unregulated and obtained through third-party app stores. Official applications used in accordance with the Super Bowl LVI are available for download via the Apple App Store for iOS devices and the Google App Store for Android devices. Mobile applications for NFL, ESPN, CBS Sports, and Fox Sports will likely experience high volume activity during Super Bowl Sunday as fans stream content throughout the event. Apps hosted on third-party app stores often contain flawed or outdated software that is susceptible to malware attacks or has other known vulnerabilities.