

**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
SPECTATOR SPORTS SAFETY AND SECURITY (NCS<sup>4</sup>)  
AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (USM)**



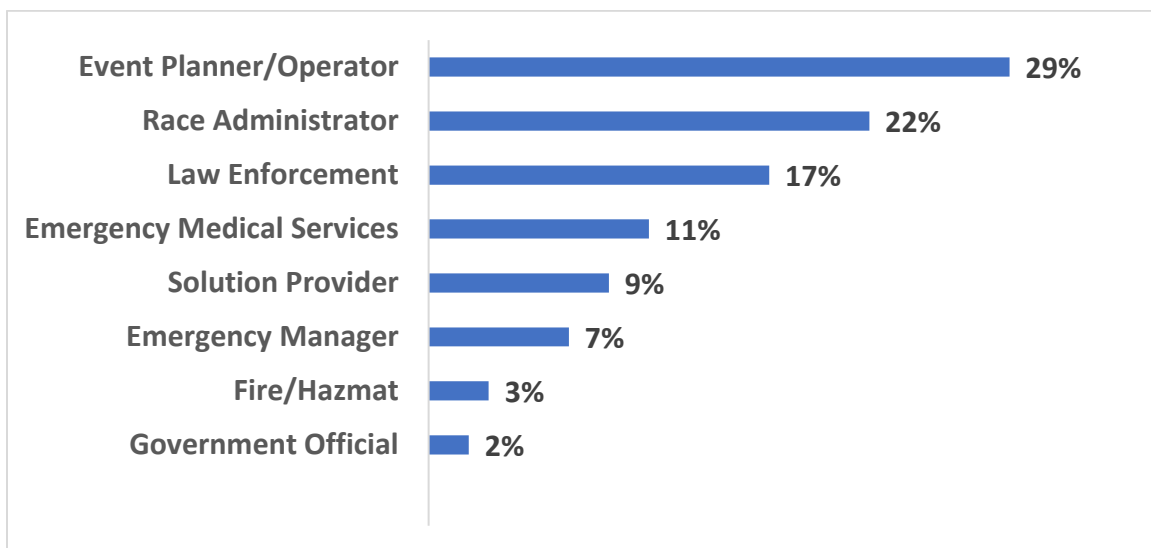
**2024  
MARATHON AND ENDURANCE EVENT SURVEY**

## 2024 Marathon and Endurance Event Survey

The purpose of this survey was to gauge the operational practices and safety and security concerns of marathon and endurance event personnel. The survey consisted of 21 questions covering demographics, race event details, safety and security concerns, emergency planning, response, and communications. The online survey was administered at the NCS<sup>4</sup> Marathon and Endurance Events Safety and Security Forum in Virginia Beach, VA, on Dec 3-4, 2024. A follow-up email reminder was sent to forum participants to complete the anonymous voluntary survey. A total of 50 respondents completed the survey.

Participants included personnel working in all facets of marathon and endurance events (see Table 1) and in all areas of the U.S., with most race events occurring in the spring and fall. Race sizes range from less than 10K to over 30K, with the majority overseeing races between the 10K-20K (33%) and over 30K (38%) range. The majority of participants have over 10 years of experience (76%) and manage or organize multiple events. Planning for race events typically begins at least 6 months in advance, with the majority of planning efforts starting as early as 9-12 months in advance.

**Table 1. Participants**



### Safety and Security Concerns

Participants were asked to what degree they were concerned about specific threats and risks, with 1=least concerned to 5=extremely concerned. Table 2 highlights race personnel's safety and security concerns when managing or organizing an event. Extreme weather is of the highest concern (M=4.18), closely followed by appropriate staffing levels (M=3.78), general medical issues (M=3.74), logistical issues (3.70), adequate training of staff members (M=3.62), vehicle ramming (M=3.18), and protests (M=3.12). Participants were least concerned about drug abuse (M=1.23) and alcohol abuse (M=1.34), as well as threats such as spectator violence,

runner violence, and assault and battery, which tend to be major concerns at other sporting events such as football, soccer, baseball, basketball, and hockey. Other concerns that were listed included traffic management (vehicles, bikes, and scooters) and access management for staff and spectators.

**Table 2. Safety and Security Concerns**

Type of Threat	Mean	Median	SD
Extreme Weather	4.18	4.50	1.07
Appropriate Staffing Levels	3.78	4.00	0.92
General Medical Issues	3.74	4.00	0.93
Logistical Issues	3.70	4.00	1.12
Adequate Training of Staff	3.62	4.00	0.85
Vehicle Ramming	3.18	3.00	1.03
Protestors	3.12	3.00	1.01
Weapons (i.e. Guns, Knives)	2.84	3.00	0.92
Adequate Safety Screening	2.72	3.00	0.80
Unauthorized Drones	2.72	3.00	1.11
Crowd Crush	2.70	3.00	1.10
Bomb Threat	2.68	3.00	0.86
Neighborhood Safety	2.68	3.00	0.97
Active Shooter	2.64	3.00	0.95
Improvised Explosive Device (IED)	2.62	3.00	1.00
Terrorist Attacks	2.44	3.00	0.94
Vandalism	2.34	2.50	1.11
Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED)	2.30	2.00	1.00
Cyber Attack	2.26	2.00	0.96
Unsafe Parking	2.20	2.00	0.96
Mass Transit Security	2.12	2.00	1.03
Suicide Bomber	2.10	2.00	1.04
Chemical/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear Explosions (CBRN)	2.08	2.00	0.96
Contaminated Drink Stations	2.04	2.00	0.94
Adequate Lighting	1.96	2.00	1.00
Spectator Violence	1.92	2.00	0.87
Kidnapping/Abduction	1.86	2.00	0.96
Race Participant Violence	1.86	2.00	0.82
Theft/Embezzlement	1.86	2.00	0.89
Infectious Disease	1.84	2.00	0.88

Other	1.64	1.00	1.28
Assault and Battery	1.62	1.00	0.77
Human Trafficking	1.50	1.00	0.83
Alcohol Abuse	1.34	1.00	0.62
Drug Abuse	1.26	1.00	0.56

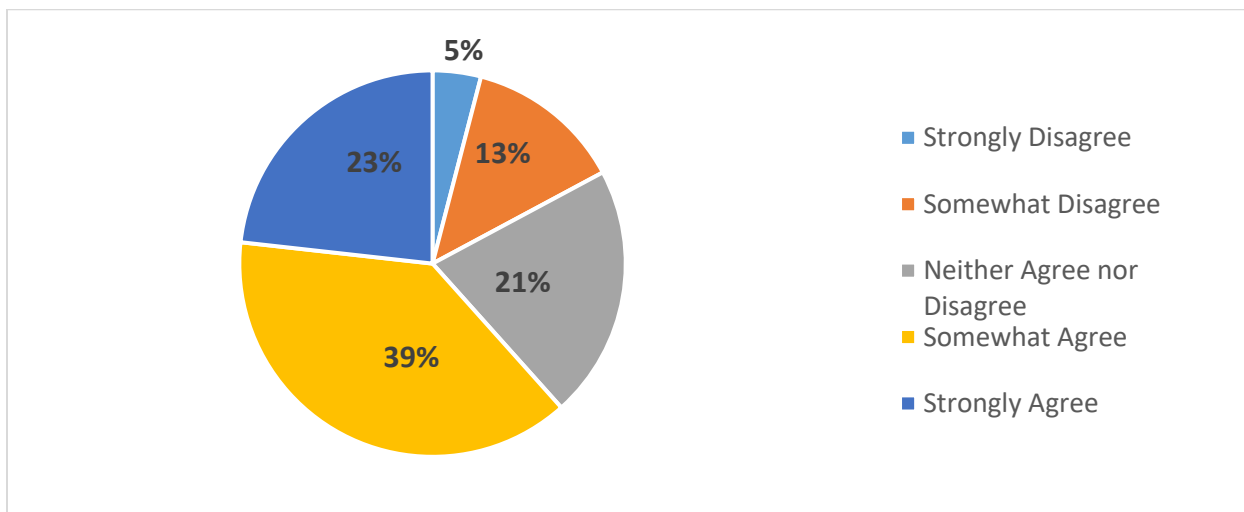
### Emergency Planning, Response, and Communications

In regards to emergency planning and response, 83% agreed/strongly agreed that designated vehicles are available to transport injured runners or spectators; 71% have a course closure plan in place in case the race is canceled; 87% indicated that safety and security notifications are communicated through various means such as text messages, social media, or apps; 90% responded that key personnel have access to emergency communications; and 92% have easily visible signage identifying first aid stations.

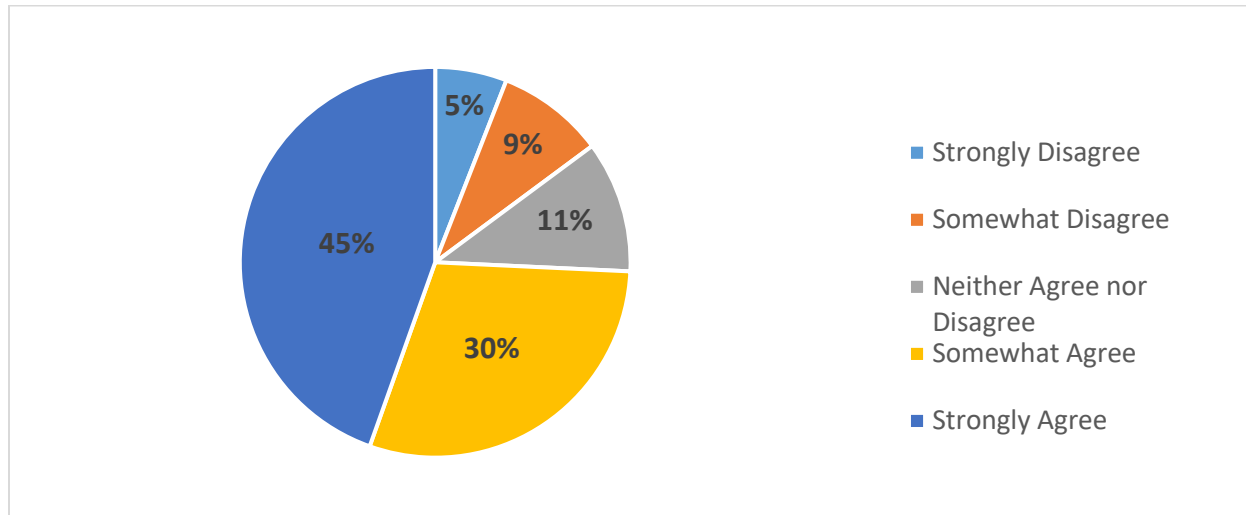
### Collaboration and Training

Planning race events involves multi-agency collaboration. The majority of event organizers communicate with federal, state, and local agencies during the event planning phase (86%). Participants were asked about staff training requirements, with 68% indicating that event staff are trained in recognizing medical emergencies; 88% agreed/strongly agreed that emergency personnel have familiarity with the race course layout; 85% agreed/strongly agreed that road closure times are communicated to affected area residents; 62% agreed/strongly agreed that event staff are trained in security awareness techniques (see figure 1); and 75% agreed/strongly agreed a tabletop exercise is conducted during the event planning phase (see figure 2).

**Figure 1. Event Staff are Trained in Security Awareness**



**Figure 2. Tabletop Exercise is Conducted during the Event Planning Phase**



## Resources

Safety and security resources for the marathon and endurance events industry include:

- ASIS
  - [Security Publications and Resources](#)
- DHS/Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
  - [Active Shooter Preparedness](#)
  - [Bombing Prevention](#)
  - [Cyber Essentials](#)
  - [De-Escalation Series](#)
  - [Emergency Services Sector-Specific Tabletop Exercise Program](#)
  - [“If You See Something, Say Something” Campaign](#)
  - [Insider Threat Mitigation](#)
  - [Mass Gathering Security Planning Tool](#)
  - [Non-Confrontational Techniques](#)
  - [Patron Screening Best Practices Guide](#)
  - [Protecting Against the Threat of Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\)](#)
  - [Public Venue Bag Search Procedures Guide](#)
  - [Public Venue Credentialing Guide](#)
  - [Public Venue Screening Guide and Touchless Screening Annex](#)
  - [Security Advisors](#)
  - [Security of Soft Targets and Crowded Places-Resource Guide](#)
  - [Vehicle Ramming Attack Mitigation](#)

- Event Safety Alliance (ESA)
  - [ANSI ES1.40 – 2023 Event Safety – Event Security](#)
  - [ANSI ES1.7 – 2021 Event Safety – Weather Preparedness](#)
  - [ANSI ES1.9 – 2020 Crowd Management](#)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
  - [Active Shooter Resources](#)
- International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM)
  - [Safety and Security Resources](#)
- National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS<sup>4</sup>)
  - [Training and Resources](#)
  - [Security and Risk Assessment for Facility and Event Managers](#)
- Security Industry Association (SIA)
  - [Training and Technology Resources](#)
- United States Secret Service
  - [National Threat Assessment Center](#)

## Contact

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