

AZ Burner Sound Policy

AZ Burner events are Interactive Art events, not 'music events.' Sound is merely one form of interactive art represented at the event. Sound can be either beautiful or aggravating. It can make you laugh, sing, cry, dance, but it can also make you irritated. We respect sound as an interactive art form, however, unlike other forms of interactive art, if amplified in excess, sound may infringe upon other participants' right to not engage in this art form. AZ Burners are dedicated to radical self-expression, but has a core belief dedicated to creating positive community.

This sound policy has been developed to accomplish the goals of respecting the gift of sound art, respecting the right of those that do not wish to engage in sound art, respecting the land owners and the neighboring community, and minimizing the risk of noise complaints to local law enforcement. Covered in this sound policy are specific definitions on what constitutes large-scale sound systems, hours of operation, sound camp placement and consequences of not following this sound policy.

As a community, we need to work together to keep sound at desirable levels. This means that everyone involved is personally responsible for how they affect everyone else's experience. If your neighbor believes your sound is too loud, you must work with them to find an acceptable volume. It is wise to check in with those that you are camped near to find out what events are planned and work with them to create a schedule that respects each other's events.

With these guidelines, you should be able to handle all your own sound issues. If everyone works together there will be no need for Event Sound Leads & Event Organizers to monitor sound.

To have an amazing events where many sound camps are welcome to participate, the following policy will be strictly enforced:

Sound Policy Guidelines

- All Large-scale sound (classified below) will register as a Theme Camp.
- Large-scale sound installations will be placed in designated sound areas.
- Sound levels will be adjusted as specified during certain hours of the day and night, throughout the event, whether amplified or non-amplified.
- Fellow participants should talk to one another first, when sound becomes an issue. Try to resolve the issue through direct communication with the sound camp participants.
- Any complaints about excessive sound that were unsuccessfully resolved on a participant level will become the concern of the Sound Leads, with the event organizer having the final say in all cases concerning disabling or eviction.
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Concerns about excessive sound can result in:

- Volume check by Event Sound Leads and mediation between camps - participants.
- Volume check and a final warning from Event Sound Leads & Event Organizers.
- Disabling sound equipment with continued issues after final warning.
- Eviction from the event.

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Large Scale Sound Installations:

Large Scale Sound will be classified as any amplified device rates at 300w RMS and/or capable of producing over 70 db @ 20'. This includes car stereos, boom boxes, musical instruments, vocal amplifiers and specific flame effects.

All Large-Scale sound must register prior to the event or at the Gate with the following information:

- Name of Camp
- Name of Camp Lead
- Name of Camp Assistant
- Type and Power Rating of amplified sound devices

At the time of arrival, participants with large scale sound will be directed to follow the Placement Crew member to be placed in the designated sound area and agree to follow all guidelines and stipulations in this sound policy.

If you bring devices that fit the criteria for large scale sound and do not wish to be placed in the large-scale sound area, or, you do not register such devices before the start of the event or at the gate, you are subject to the terms pertaining to sound throughout the rest of the event grounds, as opposed to where large scale sound will be placed.

All Large-Scale Sound Must Sign & Display the AZ Burner Sound Permit with the Sound Leads PRIOR to any sound being produced. Large-Scale Sound organizers will be ultimately responsible for all participants that utilize their Sound Equipment and agree to the following stipulations and non-compliance consequences.

- I Have READ and understand the Sound Policy
- I understand that a 2nd STRIKE (Warning of exceeding established DB Levels) will result in the TOTAL LOSS of Midnight—4:00a sound privileges for the duration of the event.
- I understand that all variables such as listed DB Levels are subject to change at any time for any reason by the Sound Leads or event Management.
- I understand that failure to abide by this policy can affect your camps ability to return to AZ Burner events.

THE SIGNED PERMIT IS A PRIVILEGE & NOT A RIGHT AND MAY BE REVOKED AT ANY TIME

Loud & Quiet Hours of Operation:

Decibel levels are designed to protect the event from external complaints. However, this level may not be appropriate at the event during certain hours of the day or in certain locations/situations. In the spirit of community, lower decibels can and may need to be negotiated due to internal conflicts within the community. These internal negotiations are expected to be fair and reasonable with utmost respect given to artistic expression while also considering the needs of the greater community.

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AZ Burners have established the following Sound db levels during the event. Sound Leads or event organizers will monitor conditions with sound level meters, if there are complaints from the community.

Midnight – 4:00AM

- Large Scale Sound 80db @ 20', unless determined otherwise onsite ○ (Sound Leads to determine onsite-adjustments may be necessary)
- Sub-Woofers Decoupled
- Limited Bass Levels
- Limited Blasts from Flame effects
- Remainder of grounds TBD onsite

4:00AM – 10:00AM

EVENT WIDE QUIET TIME

- Large Scale Sound, NO Bass NO Sub-Woofers TBD onsite
- Remainder of grounds TBD onsite
- NO Bursts from any Flame Effect
- Live Drums must be Baffled
- Generators on limited to no use

10:00AM – 11:59PM

- Large Scale Sound not to Exceed 90-100db @ 20' ○ (Sound Leads to determine onsite-adjustments may be necessary) • Sub-Woofers Decoupled
- Remainder of grounds TBD onsite
- These hours pertain to all sound producing devices, amplified, non-amplified and generators.

As a Large-Scale Sound installation, you understand that the volume level is not unlimited. You must obey the Event Sound Leads – Event Organizers – Heliotrope Rangers; if they ask you to turn the sound level down or shut the level completely off.

'De-Coupling' The Sub-Woofers:

Sub-woofers placed flat on the ground sound about TWICE as loud at distance than subs elevated somehow, like up on a stage. A good suggestion is to place pallets on the ground with packing blankets as buffers between the speaker and the pallet. The low end will still sound loud and punchy on the dance floor where it matters, but will drop off as you move away from the dance floor.

Low end is not directional, so physically pointing the sub-woofers away from the neighbors will not help. Stopping the sub-woofers from transmitting their energy into the ground is the key here.

At events ALL Sub-Woofers will be 'de-coupled' from the ground.

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Sound Complaints:

If you believe your neighbor's sound is in violation of this sound policy and you were unable to effectively negotiate a resolution, you may report this issue to the Sound Leads or to one of the event organizers.

A complaint should contain:

- The exact **SOURCE** of the sound
- The exact **TIME** of the disturbance

Please report problems when they happen, although reports filed the next day can be useful with persistent problem sound camps.

Community, Sustainability and Mutual Respect:

- DJs and other noise creating artists are an essential part of our community.
- Many sound artists spend countless hours preparing for their limited time on stage. Please respect their art whether you appreciate it or not.
- Bring ear plugs. There are no quiet places at AZ Burner events.
- If you are having sound related problems, please talk to your neighbors and attempt to resolve the issue amicably. If necessary, involve a Heliotropic Ranger in the process.

If you have a problem with sound levels, **do not go directly to the DJ to attempt to resolve the issue**. They probably cannot hear you, but more importantly, they are performing. Locate a participant of that sound camp to discuss your concerns.

Discuss and listen. Express your concerns. Be respectful.

Emergency Sound Abatement Procedure

If there is a formal complaint lodged by a local resident or a county official, event-wide sound will be dampened within 10 minutes.

To maximize response speed, the Sound Leads & Heliotropic Rangers will assist the event organizers in communicating the situation to all sound producing entities.

Should this occur, all sound-emitting entities are required to immediately adjust their sound output as determined by the Event Sound Leads and event organizers.

Acceptable sound levels during emergency sound abatement will be much lower than during the event, and may be as extreme as silence in bass frequency ranges ("cut subs"), or possibly all frequencies ("cut sound").

When emergency sound abatement procedures are concluded, decibel levels will likely need to be adjusted lower to prevent such an event from happening again.

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Generator Policy

If you do choose to bring a generator, please be considerate of others by following these guidelines:

- Bring the quietest generator you can afford and the smallest that will meet your actual needs. Larger generators are more difficult to transport, use more fuel and create more pollution. Better yet, see if you can contribute gas to your neighbor's generator and run a covered extension cord.
- Be mindful of which direction the exhaust is going. Make every attempt to point away from your neighbor's camp.
- If possible, do not run your generator late at night or early in the morning.
- Place the generator as far from other camps as possible.
- Cover your generator with a sound shield or baffle, or outfit it with a motorcycle muffler. There is no reason for a generator to be louder than that of a well maintained idling car.

Remember, generators are also subject to the terms and conditions of the AZ Burner Sound Policy.

Mutant Vehicle Sound Policy

Mutant Vehicles weather stationary or moving that employ sound agree to all stipulations contained within this sound policy and are subject to the same sound db levels as Large Scale Sound.

Sound Leads or organizers will determine if any adjustments need to be made to Mutant Vehicle sound db levels.