



Traveler Safety Report

Super Bowl LIII

Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, Georgia

Information as of 24 January 2019—0900 Hours EST

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Location Overview

Atlanta, Georgia will host Super Bowl LIII at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on 3 February 2019. The event is expected to draw approximately one million people to the surrounding area with nearly two hundred thousand spectators arriving each day between 1 February and 4 February. Attendees will be in downtown Atlanta for Super Bowl events from 26 January leading up to game day on 3 February.

Mercedes-Benz Stadium is a two million-square-foot facility that hosts a variety of sporting and entertainment events. The stadium boasts a capacity of 71,000 seats—expandable to 75,000 seats—with 21,000 parking spaces. The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) mass transportation system will have extended hours during the Super Bowl week, allowing for best access to downtown Atlanta.

Safety and Security Overview

There are no current, credible threats against Super Bowl LIII, according to media reports; however, as a high-profile event with large crowds, Super Bowl LIII could be a potential target for terrorists. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated the Super Bowl as a Special Event Activity Rating (SEAR) Level I—the highest SEAR level—which facilitates federal support for and collaboration with state and local law enforcement entities. This designation is reserved for large events that have significant national importance and therefore are more likely to be the target of criminal or terrorist activity. Sporting events and stadiums have been the target of terrorist attacks in the past, and terrorist propaganda continues to call for attacks on open-access congested areas.

- A terrorist detonated an improvised explosive device at the entrance of the Manchester Arena in the United Kingdom as concert-goers departed an Ariana Grande concert in May 2017.

- The November 2016 issue *Rumiyah*, ISIS’ English-language propaganda magazine suggested attacking “large outdoor conventions and celebrations, pedestrian-congested streets, outdoor markets, festivals, parades...”
- Terrorists struck a stadium near Paris as part of a coordinated attack against the city in November 2015. Militants detonated three suicide bombs outside of the Stade de France during a soccer match between France and Germany.
- The March 2014 issue of *Inspire*, al-Qaeda’s English-language propaganda magazine, called for bomb attacks at sporting events in the US and other Western countries.

Federal, state, and local authorities have undertaken significant steps to mitigate security and safety concerns for the Super Bowl. Authorities have developed joint response plans for various forms of attacks, protests, suspicious packages, and other potential threats, in addition to taking proactive measures such as monitoring social media for developing threats. Authorities will implement road closures and detours as a means of crowd control and threat mitigation.

- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will execute a temporary flight restriction centered around the stadium on 3 February from 1600 hours to 2359 hours EST.
- The flight restrictions will not affect regularly scheduled commercial flights in and out of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL).
- All forms of transportation will be affected by the road closures and detours, including ride-sharing vehicles, taxis, private transportation, and MARTA.

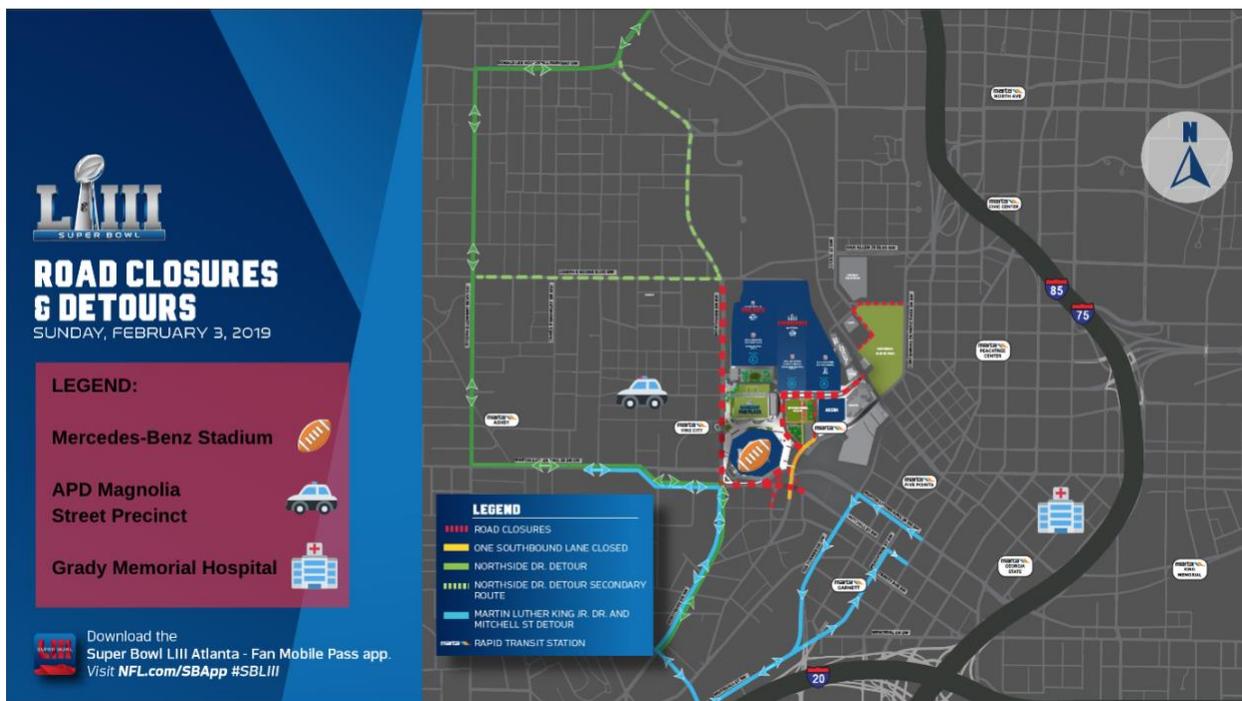


Image 1: Road Closures and Detours for 3 February 2019



Effect of Government Shutdown

The partial government shutdown is not expected to have a significant negative impact on public safety during Super Bowl week but may affect airports, according to statements by authorities. DHS, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Atlanta Police Department (APD) are continuing to operate during the shutdown. However, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers across the country and in Atlanta have increasingly been missing shifts during the shutdown, and aviation unions claim that they cannot guarantee the security system is fully operational with the ongoing reduction in resources. The Atlanta TSA Director is taking additional steps to maintain operational capacity and prepare for the influx of travelers, but residual delays may occur.

- There was a nearly seven percent increase in TSA officers calling in sick over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend in 2019 compared to 2018.
- A passenger was allowed to board a plane with a loaded firearm on a January 2019 flight from Atlanta to Narita, Japan. TSA determined that a lapse in proper procedure resulted in the failure to detect the weapon.

Crime

Atlanta's violent and property crime rates are well above the national average, and the region surrounding the stadium exhibits a moderate amount of crime. Atlanta's violent crime rate was 144 percent higher than the national average and its property crime rate was 102 percent higher than the national average in 2018. The surge of visitors to the Atlanta area is expected to prompt a rise in petty theft targeting tourists, counterfeit ticket and merchandise sales, and human trafficking.

- Nearly \$1 million worth of counterfeit tickets and \$520,000 worth of counterfeit memorabilia were confiscated by police in the days leading up to the 2018 Super Bowl in Minnesota.
- Human trafficking has historically spiked during large sporting events such as the Super Bowl, according to academic researchers and law enforcement data.
- FBI and local law enforcement will coordinate efforts to crack down on human trafficking through raids, undercover stings, and social media monitoring.

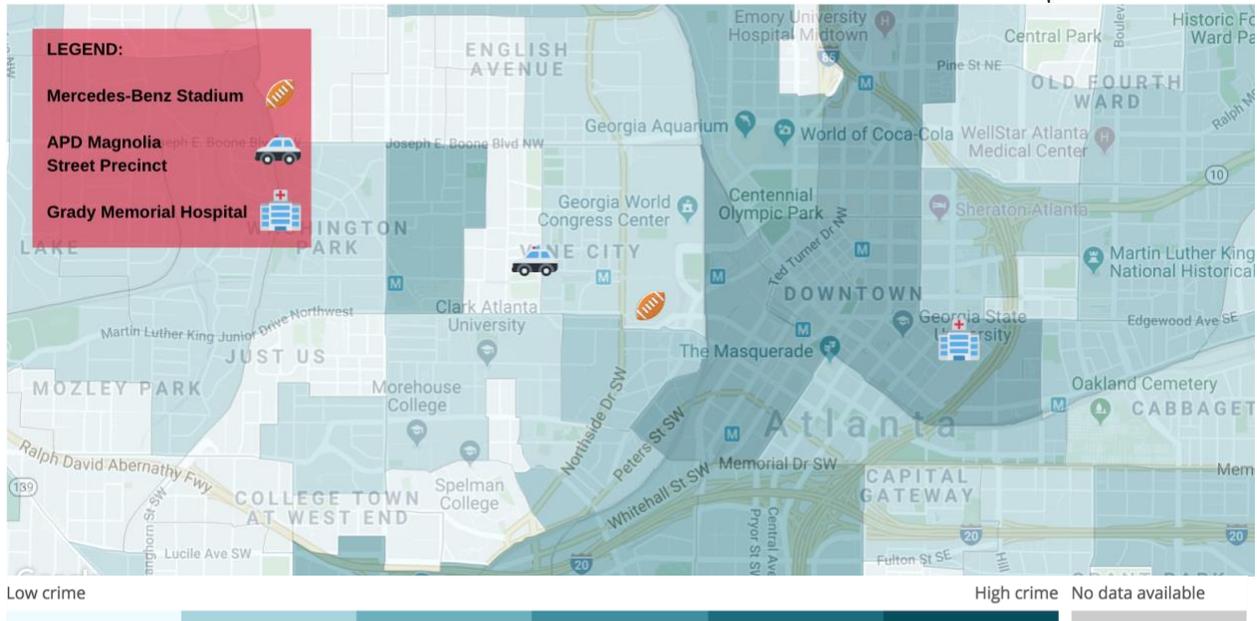


Image 2: Crime Map of Area Surrounding Mercedes-Benz Stadium

Emergency Services

The Grady Memorial Hospital is the closest Level I trauma center and urgent care facility to Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The hospital is located at 80 Jesse Hill Junior Drive SE, approximately two miles (ten minutes with regular traffic) from the stadium.

- The trauma center’s telephone number is 404-616-2226.

The Atlanta Police Department Magnolia Street Precinct is the closest police station to Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The police station is located at 612 Magnolia Street NW, less than a mile (two minutes with regular traffic) from the stadium.

- The station’s telephone number is 404-658-6486.

Safety Recommendations

In order to mitigate potential threats during Super Bowl LIII, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Purchase merchandise only from major retailers or NFL official stores in the stadium. Do not purchase merchandise or tickets from street or cash-only vendors.
- Leave valuables locked in your hotel room safe.
- Be aware of your surroundings in crowded areas; minimize distractions from wearing headphones, looking at your phone, or reading documents such as maps and magazines.



- Keep your wallet, phone, and keys in different pockets to prevent pickpockets from obtaining those items in one attempt.
- Pre-plan your transportation to and from destinations, and familiarize yourself with the routes to avoid getting lost or stuck in congested traffic.
- Do not access sensitive information—such as bank accounts or credit card statements—when connected to unsecured WiFi networks, as information such as passwords and credit card numbers can be intercepted.
- Wash your hands regularly to avoid the flu and other illnesses that are prevalent during this time of year.