

## Flying a speaker system

The practice of elevating, or sometimes called “flying”, loud speakers provides for exceptional coverage of audio between the near and far field of the listening area. Utilizing elevated speakers (relative to the stage and audience members) provides nearly no obstructions between the speakers and the listener. Audio clarity and coverage extends over the listening area.

To elevate speakers, a lifting and suspension system is required. The lifting equipment utilized must provide for the safe lifting/rigging of speakers. Not all speakers are designed to be flown. Flying a speaker system can involve only one (1) speaker. Safety is extremely important for the deployment of a flown (elevated) speaker system.

Stage Left Audio Productions, LLC may suggest or recommend a flown speaker system for your event as part of the quoting process for services. Flying a speaker system can provide a great benefit for events, however, flying a system will only be conducted under favorable and safe conditions. These conditions are for the safety of the guests, attendees, performers, employees, contractors, vendors, anyone within proximity of the speaker system, and for the audio equipment itself.

Not all events may need (or require) a flown speaker system. Ground stacking may be acceptable.

Conditions may exist that could prohibit the deployment of a flown speaker system. If these conditions exist prior to, or during, or are forecasted for the event time period, the speaker system may not be flown. To ensure safety for everyone, the speaker system will be ground-stacked.

The list below references various conditions that may prohibit the deployment of a flown speaker system. To ensure a safe and proper deployment, if any of the items in the list (below) exist prior to, or during, or are forecasted for the event, this may result with ground stacking or moving the speaker system to a safer deployment area on or near the stage:

- **Wind:** Wind gusts in excess of 20 mph.
- **Precipitation:** Any precipitation considered to be light-rain or more
- **Thunderstorms:** Any current or forecasted activity
- **Stage Ceiling height:** Event location ceiling/roof must have a minimum height of 15ft (4.5m)
- **Electrical wires:** Electrical wires or cords in the immediate area of the lifts.
- **Obstructions:** Obstructions near or around the ceiling or walls that could fall and/or knock into the speakers or lifts.
- **Access to lifting area:** The immediate area around the speaker lifts must allow for full access.
- **Restricted time allotment:** Not enough time allocated to deploy and / or tear-down the lifts and speakers.
- **Weight capacity of deployment area:** Area where lifts will be deployed must be able to support the additional weight.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a service for your event. Safety to everyone attending your event is very important. Stage Left Audio Productions, LLC takes safety seriously and believes customers should be educated on potential issues with flying a speaker system.