

CSSP Highlight



Ross Bourgeois

Assistant Chief of Public Safety
SMG New Orleans

The National Center for Spectator Sports safety and Security (NCS4) is pleased to highlight the achievement of Ross Bourgeois, Assistant Chief of Public Safety for SMG New Orleans. Bourgeois is the 28th safety and security professional to earn the Certified Sport Security Professional (CSSP) certification. Preceded by Don Paisant, Chief of Public Safety (2014), Bourgeois is second individual from SMG New Orleans to earn the CSSP credential.

Bourgeois has been working in the field of sports safety and security for just over three years. Prior to coming to work at SMG New Orleans, Bourgeois worked for the New Orleans Police Department having spent his last few years in the Special Events Section of law enforcement. In his position as Assistant Chief of Public Safety, he oversees the day-to-day operations of the Public Safety Department for the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Smoothie King Center, and Champions Square. These three venues host a variety of sporting, entertainment, exhibition, and large scale events.

Bourgeois decided to pursue the CSSP certification to expand his knowledge base and keep at the forefront of his profession. He stated that, "The CSSP certification is an accomplishment that indicates that you are on the 'cutting edge' of the sports security industry and that you have met certain standards relative to experience, knowledge, and skills." In addition to professional development, Bourgeois is confident that the CSSP certification represents SMG's commitment to the safety and security of fans, participants and staff.

In the evolving field of sports safety and security, Bourgeois believes that professional certification will help to define the experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities that are required to successfully perform the job duties of a manager or executive that is responsible for securing the sports and entertainment venues, teams, and organizations. Since many people come into this profession from various backgrounds (i.e. law enforcement, emergency management, event operations) it is important to have standards of performance. Certification also shows potential clients that we are dedicated to protecting people and our facilities.

In preparation for the CSSP examination, Bourgeois participated in the NCS4 Executive Track and CSSP Review Course. He reports that both the training workshops and review session were very helpful in preparing for the exam. According to Bourgeois, the most challenging part of the CSSP examination was the clarity of some of the questions.

Bourgeois was recently featured in *Security Systems News Magazine's* "Top 20 Under 40" Class of 2015. He is a graduate of Loyola University.

If you are interested in learning more about the CSSP certification, please contact Elizabeth Voorhees at 601-266-6099 or visit www.ncs4.com/cssp.