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Fairs Year-round Information

California's Heat Wave Raises the Question: Do You Know How to Respond to the Symptoms of Heat-Related Illnesses?

More than 130 people died of heat-related causes during California's record-breaking July heat wave. While the majority of the deaths were among the elderly, younger people working outdoors - a 39-year-old gardener and a 38-year-old farm worker - were also among the casualties. The lesson here is that when the heat is literally frying eggs on the sidewalk (and a woman in Southern California is baking cookies in her SUV), everyone can be at risk of a heat-related illness. And that goes double for people working outdoors in the unrelenting sun.

Even though temperatures have dropped 10 to 15 degrees, did you know there's still a significant potential for a heat-related illness when temperatures are in the 90s with commonly occurring humidity levels?

According to the National Weather Service Heat Index, a

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California's Fairs Band Together to Provide a Cool Respite for Overheated Golden State Residents

When Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger decided that California's fairs could be used as "cooling centers" for the State's residents needing shelter from the oppressive heat that held the Golden State hostage in July, he turned to the Department of Food and Agriculture to make it happen.

Within hours of the governor's request that California fairgrounds be made available as cooling centers, staff members at the Division of Fairs and Expositions (F&E), under the leadership of Director Mike Treacy, were using just about every technological means available - from phone to fax to e-mail - to get the word out to the fairs.

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Frank Mirahmadi to Make the Call on the Northern California Racing Fair Circuit

The California Authority of Racing Fairs has hired Frank Mirahmadi to be the announcer for the 2006 San Joaquin Fair, Alameda County Fair, Solano County Fair, Humboldt County Fair and the Big Fresno Fair race meets.

From 2000 to 2005, Mirahmadi served as track announcer and racing publicity manager at Louisiana Downs, and was the track announcer and television host at Hialeah Park from 1996 to 2001.

Known for his impressions, Mirahmadi has called races using more than 20 different voices and won TVG's Viewer's Choice Race Call of the Year award in 2000 and 2001. He was hired to portray the Santa Anita track announcer in the movie "Seabiscuit" and was recently cast as the Monmouth Park track announcer in the upcoming television movie, "Ruffian." "I have always wanted to call races in California," said the 38-year-old Los Angeles native. "This is an exciting opportunity."

"How Do I Do This?" Let the California Construction Authority Count the Ways

By Jonathan Pike, CCA

Believe it or not, project management can be fun! As many of you already know (and many of you may not), the California Construction Authority (CCA) has a number of ways to complete projects on your fairgrounds. Depending on the project, some of these ways may be a bit more complicated than others, but we want you to know, we have lots of different options up our sleeves.

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"Discover" CFSA's 2005 Achievements, Financial Report and Much More

CFSA's 2005 annual report, "Discover," is done! Copies were mailed to all California fairs last week so you should've received yours by now. If you haven't or if you'd like additional copies, please contact Melissa Thurber at 916/263-6163 or mthurber@cfssa.org.

Negotiating Contracts? Have CFSA Review the Insurance Certificates for Completeness

Did you know that when there's an omission in your contractor or renter's insurance certificate your fair may not be covered if there's an accident?

Don't take chances, fax your contracts and certificates to Lianne Lewellen, CFSA's risk analyst, for a FREE review. If there's an omission, she'll correct the situation for you. It couldn't be easier!

Questions? Call Lianne at 916/263-6145.

"If you don't want anyone
to know, don't do it."

~ Chinese Proverb

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Let's hear from you!
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“Always put off until tomorrow what you shouldn’t do at all.”

~ Morris Mandel

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California Heat Wave, continued

temperature of 90 degrees *in the shade* with 30 percent humidity calls for a warning of “extreme caution” for heat illnesses such as heat exhaustion, heat cramps and sunstroke. If the temperature in the shade rises above 100 degrees, the Heat Index characterizes the risk level as “extreme danger.” In either case, the prudent choice is to limit or cease work altogether.

Although the weather has cooled off (for now), it’s still important to know the signs of heat-related distress as well as what to do when you or a co-worker experiences them.

When it’s blazing hot out, experts recommend wearing lightweight clothing, drinking plenty of cool water (at least one cup every 20 minutes), taking frequent rest breaks in the shade if you’re working in the sun, and if possible, scheduling outdoor work for early mornings and avoiding heated areas.

Here’s a list of warning signs and what to do in response:

- If you or a co-worker experiences profuse sweating, a pale or flushed complexion and/or flu-like symptoms such as sudden weakness, nausea, fever, chills or a headache, stop what you’re doing and take a break in a cool, shady area. Drink water or sport beverages. If there’s vomiting, immediately seek medical help.
- Workers suffering from painful muscle spasms or tired muscles should also take a break in the shade and, again, drink water or sport beverages.
- If a co-worker loses consciousness, move him (or her) to a shaded area and immediately seek medical help. Until help arrives, you can cool the worker with fanning, by soaking his clothing with cool water, and by applying cool compresses to his head and face. Don’t try to give him anything to drink.
- In all situations, do not give or take salt tablets, caffeine, alcohol or fever medications.

Questions? Contact Tom Allen, CFSA’s safety manager, at 916/263-6186

Cooling Centers, continued

Mike urged the fair managers to use their best judgment and common sense in deciding how to best implement the governor’s request. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Even though some fairs were in the middle of their annual fair, or were within days of opening, almost all of the fair managers expressed their desire and willingness to do everything possible to help the residents of their communities who might need a cool place to stay.

Follow-up calls from F&E staff over the next couple of days after the initial request revealed that some fair managers were even willing to have residents come into their air-conditioned reception area if that was the only building at their site with air conditioning.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when the heat dissipated, and Mike noted that the many valuable lessons learned during that very spur-of-the-moment event will serve everyone well should there be another hot spell or other emergency situation.

The good news is that very few people had to use the cooling centers. The better news is that the centers were there for anyone who needed them, and that they will be there in the future when needed again.

CCA Programs, con’t.

For starters, the following options are available, in one form or another, to help get your job done:

- CCA Day Labor
- Fair Day Labor
- Fair Maintenance Staff
- Purchase Order Contract
- Contract with plan and specifications
- Pre-qualified Consultant
- Fair issued RFP or RFQ

After the most appropriate option has been chosen, the fun really starts. Depending on the budget and other factors, CCA and your fair staff will decide on the appropriate scope of work. CCA will then schedule the work, complete and inspect the work, and after all associated costs are paid, CCA will close out the project. Easy, right?

If only this perfect scenario existed every time. When reality checks in, the schedule gets rearranged, the scope of the project expands, additional funding is needed to meet the new scope, your fair is starting in just three weeks ... see, I told you this would be fun! The good news is, you still have plenty of options available.

Whether you have a complex project that fits this scenario or you just want to get something simple completed, remember that we are very committed to seeing your project through.

If you have any questions about our project management services, please give us a call at 916/263-6100. Let’s have some fun with it!

