

fyi

Fairs Year-round Information

Solano County and Ventura County Fairs Turn Commitment to Safety into Employee Accident Free Fairs

No one wakes up in the morning deciding, "Today I think I'll get injured on the job." On the other hand, a conscious decision to make employee safety a high priority has helped several fairs wrap up their annual events without a single employee accident.

The first fair, the Alameda County Fair, was featured in the August 5, 2005, issue of *fyi* (<http://www.cfsa.org/publication/fyiarhive.htm>). And now, congratulations are in order for the Solano County and Ventura County Fairs; both ended with nary an employee scratch. And although their approaches were slightly different, their strategies were basically the same: aggressive communication and a tenacious focus on hazard prevention, identification and eradication.

Bobbie Dill, human resources manager at the **Solano County Fair**, credits her fair's management team and the highly visible ways in which they conveyed the fair's safety priority message for their accomplishment. During fairtime, Solano's staff swells from 32 employees to approximately 400, and every new employee was required to attend a comprehensive safety meeting. During this meeting, department heads were introduced so that they would be recognizable when out and about on the grounds. Having this presence, Bobbie believes encouraged everyone to be more conscientious on the job. But the fair didn't stop there. Aware that the employees with the highest risk exposure were on the maintenance and janitorial crews, Keith Moehring, the fair's maintenance supervisor, assigned experienced employees to serve as crew leaders overseeing the 65-70 temporary maintenance and janitorial workers hired for the fair. To keep year-round

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Sign Up for Maintenance Mania 2006! It's Free and All Fair Maintenance Crews and Fair CEOs are Invited

Mark your calendars, Maintenance Mania 2006 is on the horizon. Hosted by F&E, CFSA and CCA, two sessions, one in Bakersfield and the other in Alameda, are planned to help keep travel distances short:

Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield, Tuesday - Thursday, January 24 - 26 (optional day, Monday, January 23).
Alameda County Fairgrounds, Alameda, Tuesday - Thursday, February 7 - 9 (optional day, Monday, February 6).

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WFA Announces the Second Year of its Successful Executive Development Program

Western Fairs Association (WFA), in partnership with California's Department of Food and Agriculture, has announced the 2006 Executive Development Program (EDP). This program is based on a similar one that trained fair executives from 1985 to 1991.

Now in its second year, the EDP is seeking candidates for the yearlong, paid training program.

"We're very pleased to be continuing this program in 2006," noted Randy Hatfield, WFA President. "We had a

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A banner year

Alameda County Fair and "Operation Post Card" Help Fairgoers Send Messages to Soldiers Overseas

Rick Pickering, CEO of the Alameda County Fair, reports that this year's fair provided fairgoers with much more than just breathtaking rides, nonstop entertainment and delectable fair cuisine: Fairgoers also had an opportunity to send personal messages and best wishes to troops stationed in the Middle East through a program called "Operation Post Card."

In association with the United States Army, the fair provided fairgoers with a series of banners on which they could write their messages. Altogether, more than 80 double-sided, military branch specific banners were created and sent to the soldiers. Many of the messages were penned by mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles of military personnel currently overseas.

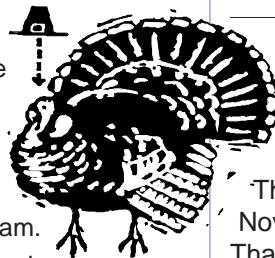
Major Eric Boettcher, Commander of B Company, 451 Civil Affairs Battalion, received the banners and with the help of his soldiers, passed them out in Iraq to the various units from the California National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

"It is difficult to be overseas away from family and friends, let alone in a hostile zone," said Major Boettcher, "and it is the little things like this that really help the morale of the average military person serving over there."

Thanksgiving Agency Hours

CARF, CCA, CFSA and WFA will be closed

Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25th for Thanksgiving. Have a wonderful holiday!



"Self-discipline is when your conscience tells you to do something and you don't talk back."

~ W. K. Hope

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Let's hear from you!
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“One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries.”

~ A. A. Milne

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Employee Accident Free Fairs, continued

employees up-to-date on their safety training, Keith holds weekly safety staff meetings year-round, focusing on fire safety, safe machinery operation, and other important topics.

Ventura County Fair CEO Barbara Boester, reports that about two years ago, the fair decided they really needed to “take safety seriously.” True to their word, the fair now has a Safety Committee and holds departmental safety meetings. Both the Safety Committee and the departments meet monthly, year-round. In addition, the fair’s business assistant, Valerie Buckley, has become an expert on the accident reporting process and works closely with Patti Nevin, CFSA’s workers’ compensation administrator, on any fair claims.

The fair’s Safety Committee, co-chaired by Ron Murphy, the fair’s maintenance supervisor, and Beth Medeiros, the fair’s deputy manager, and comprised of senior management and representatives from each fair department, discusses everything from the causes of recent accidents to how to prevent similar accidents in the future. Meetings also include fair-ground walk-arounds to follow-up on any previous concerns as well as to help identify and remedy any potential hazards.

During fairtime, staff and new employees attend daily safety meetings and as the “eyes and ears” of the fair, everyone is encouraged to report accidents immediately as well as anything that seems, in respect to safety, out of the ordinary.

Currently in development for next year are two employee handbooks, one describing what to do in the event of an accident and another on emergency procedures.

Implementing a fair-wide safety program takes time, effort and persistence. But the benefits of a safe workplace are immense. Want to know more about Solano or Ventura’s safety programs? Call Bobbie Dill at 707/551-2008, or Barbara Boester, 805/648-3376, respectively.

WFA Professional Development, continued

successful year with our first two candidates and are looking forward to continuing this high caliber training program.”

Candidate recruitment runs through December 9. The selection committee, including graduates of WFA’s Management Training Program, will make its selections in January and the chosen candidates will begin training in February.

EDP application information is available on the WFA Web site at www.westernfairs.org.

Mark Your Calendar:

Upcoming Western Fairs Association Deadlines

November 28

Selected Showcase Acts notified by WFA

November 30

WFA Years of Service forms due

December 1

WFA Industry Memorials due

December 9

WFA Showcase fees due

December 23

Deadline for WFA Convention hotel reservations at the Town & Country Resort

January 9 – 12

WFA’s 2006 Convention and Trade Show

Maintenance Mania, continued

Participation in Maintenance Mania is free of charge and all California fair maintenance crews and fair CEOs are encouraged to attend. Special programs include:

- Certificate training for welding, plumbing and professional development
- A leadership series on risk management, and injury and illness prevention, among other topics
- Hands-on workshops
- A trade show
- Friendly competitions
- Optional Bonus Days for adult CPR, forklift and boom-lift training and certification
- An Awards dinner

Three Ways to Register

1) *Online* at www.cfsa.org. You’ll find a direct link to Maintenance Mania at the top of the Home Page

2) *By e-mail*: Send your registration form to cwglesworth@cfsa.org or apayne@cfsa.org. Subject: Maintenance Mania 2006

3) *By Fax*: Fax your registration form to: CFSA
Attn: Maintenance Mania
1776 Tribute Road, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95815

The registration deadline is Tuesday, December 6, 2005.

Discount Lodging

Special arrangements for discount priced lodging have been made at both locations; first come, first served: [Holiday Inn Select](#), Bakersfield, 661/323-1900.

[Crown Dublin Plaza](#), Dublin, 925/847-6000.

The reservation deadline for both locations is December 6, 2005. And remember to mention Maintenance Mania. Questions? Visit our Web site at www.cfsa.org, or please call Charlie Wigglesworth at 916/263-6183 or Alan Payne at 916/263-6194.