



New Workers' Compensation Laws Affect Vocational Rehab, Benefits and More

With the new year come some changes in California's workers' compensation laws you should know about. Patti Nevin, CFSA's workers' compensation claims administrator, reports these changes are in the areas of vocational rehabilitation, disability benefits, and chiropractor and physical therapy visits.

Vocational Rehabilitation

In 1975, Governor Ronald Reagan amended Labor Code Section 139.5 to provide vocational rehabilitation for all workers

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Set Up a CFSA Fairtime Safety Inspection Today

If your fair is considering a CFSA fairtime safety inspection this year, CFSA Safety Specialist Tom Amberson asks that you submit a written (by mail, e-mail or fax) request no later than Monday, March 15.

Unlike CFSA's facility loss control inspections, fairtime inspections are provided on a request basis only.

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Have Employees Under 18? Forklifts are Off Limits

Did you know it's against California law for employees under 18 to operate a forklift? The *Cal-OSHA Reporter* newsletter notes that Fed-OSHA and the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division recently issued a bulletin as a reminder to employers about this age restriction.

This bulletin was triggered by two fatal accidents, one involving a 15-year-old boy and the other, a 16-year-old boy. You'll find a copy of the bulletin on the *Cal-OSHA Reporter* Web site, www.cal-osha.com, under "Resources."

Source: *Cal-OSHA Reporter*, October 10, 2003.

Posters, Chairs and Mity Light Tables

Here's a look at some of the seasonal items Karen Gally, CFSA's purchasing agent, can acquire for your fair:

2004 Employee Rights Posters

Don't forget to update your "required employee notices" poster with the 2004 version. All of the notices are conveniently consolidated onto one 26"x39" poster. To order, call Karen at 916/263-6191. (The poster is shipped via US mail.)

Mity Lite Tables

Karen is placing her annual Mity Lite Table order on March 29. The tables, which are scratch and gouge resistant, are available in a variety of sizes and make perfect picnic tables. For sizes available, please call Karen at 916/263-6191.

Need Folding Chairs?

Here's a good stock-up opportunity on white and off-white folding chairs. Priced from \$6.00 - \$9.00 each, the chairs are being rotated out of stock by a rental company. For information or to place an order, contact Tony at 916/773-2133.

2004 Nuts & Bolts Training is Slated for April 6 and 7

Knowledge is power: If you're a fair manager or a member of your fair's office support staff, schedule yourself "out of the office" Tuesday - Wednesday, April 6 - 7, and join your colleagues for the 2004 Nuts & Bolts Training session.

Hosted by the Division of Fairs and Expositions, and Western Fairs Association, the popular event will be held at Cal Expo in Sacramento.

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Napa County Fair Joins the General Liability Pool

Faced with a significant increase in their commercial general liability coverage, the Napa County Fair consulted with CFSA to find out if the JPA could provide a money-saving alternative. CFSA could and on January 1, CFSA warmly welcomed the fair as the newest member of the fairs' General Liability Pool.

2004 Special Events Rate Cards Issued

What color is the laminated Special Events Program Rate Card in your fair's *Red Book*? If it's not hot pink, you don't have the latest version of the card, which went into effect January 1, 2004. For a copy of the new Rate Card, contact Lianne Lewellen, CFSA's Risk Analyst, at 916/263-6145.

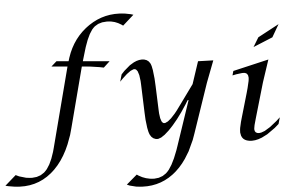
Funding for Equipment Financing Available

Offered exclusively to CFSA-pool member fairs, this program was created to help fairs purchase big ticket

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"Opportunity may knock only once, but temptation leans on the doorbell."

~ Anonymous



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Let's hear from you!
Contact *fyi* at:
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Fax: 916/646-1238
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Visit our Web site:
www.cfsa.org

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"Reason has always existed,
just not always in a reason-
able form."

~ Anonymous

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2004 Workers' Compensation, continued...

unable to return to their "usual and customary" job duties because of an industrial injury.

Beginning in 2004, however, employers will no longer be required to pay mandatory vocational rehab benefits as defined within Labor Code Section 139.5. This section has been amended to provide "supplemental job displacement benefits" through a voucher system. The dollar amount of the voucher will be based on the injured worker's percentage of permanent disability. And instead of giving the voucher to the worker to pay for retraining, the voucher will be given directly to the retraining facility. But, Patti is quick to add, this new system could also change based on the ongoing reform legislation already underway and the intensive lobbying by groups anticipating a loss of revenue.

Patti is following the reform activity closely and will keep CFSA's pool members apprised of all new developments.

Temporary Disability Benefits

The maximum benefit rate for temporary disability has increased for 2004, rising to \$728 a week. To be eligible for this higher rate, an injured worker must earn a salary of \$1,092 (gross) or more per week.

Chiropractor Visits

Another change limits chiropractor and physical therapist visits. Now, workers injured after the first of this year will receive a maximum of 24 visits to a chiropractor or physical therapist during the life of the claim.

For more information about any of these changes or if you have any questions about workers' comp claims or benefits in general, please contact Patti at 916/263-6172.

Fairtime Safety Inspections, continued...

Every year, Tom explained, CFSA's Safety Team conducts at least 30 fairtime inspections and submitting your request as early as possible will help ensure you don't miss out on this very popular service offering.

Fairtime inspections include:

- Portable amusement ride inspections.
- Site inspections for potential life/safety/fire issues.
- Observation of personnel to detect unsafe working practices.
- A complete report of all findings and solution suggestions.

Safety training such as new employee and fairtime employee safety orientation, fire safety and other programs are also available by request.

To schedule a fairtime inspection, please submit your written request to: Tom Amberson

California Fair Services Authority
1776 Tribute Road, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95815

Fax: 916/648-1941 or e-mail: tamberson@cfsa.org

Please include the dates of your fair as well as any specialized training you'd like the Safety Team to conduct during their visit. Requests are filled on a first-come, first-served, time-permitting basis.

Nuts & Bolts, con't...

Training topics are geared for fair office support staff and in the past have included sessions on accounting, contracts, personnel, claims, loss reporting and liability insurance.

Watch your mail, registration materials will be sent soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact either Amanda Wallace at 916/263-2955, or June Cady, 916/263-2959, at the Division.

Equipment Purchasing, con't...

items such as grandstands, tractors and computer equipment.

The program is funded with money set aside by a resolution of CFSA's board of directors from CFSA's risk pool reserves. A 5-percent interest rate ~ the lowest rate since the program was launched in June 1992 ~ is charged to replace interest lost on money out on loan.

For more information about the program and how to apply, contact Raechelle Gibbons at 916/263-6143.

Next CFSA Board Meeting

CFSA's next board of directors meeting is calendered for Tuesday, April 6.

The agenda will be posted on CFSA's Web site toward the end of March: <http://www.cfsa.org/about/agenda.htm>.