



CFSA Board Member, George Gomes, Recognized as "2005 California State Fair Agriculturalist of the Year"

The State Fair board of directors voted to honor George Gomes, administrator of the California Farm Bureau and a longtime member of CFSA's board of directors, with the California State Fair's prestigious "Agriculturalist of the Year" Award. The award, given for outstanding leadership and contributions on behalf of California's agricultural industry, recognizes George's ongoing commitment to California's family farmers and ranchers, as well as his support of agricultural education and youth programs. He received his award at the California State Fair Gala and Auction on Friday, August 5.

"No one has worked harder than George Gomes on behalf of California family farmers and ranchers," says California Farm Bureau president Bill Pauli, "and his work helps all Californians who benefit from high-quality, locally grown farm products. As a farmer, teacher, mentor and advocate, he has led by example and encouraged others through his knowledge and passion." *Continued on other side ...*

CFSA Says "Good Bye and Good Luck!" to Risk Analyst Lianne Lewellen

On August 19, CFSA will reluctantly say "good luck, we'll miss you!" to risk analyst Lianne Lewellen. After 13 years with CFSA, the last five spent overseeing the Special Events Program, Lianne is moving to Sparks, Nevada, and looking forward to all the new opportunities (and fishing!) her move will bring. Stepping into Lianne's post is Cailee DeFoe, currently an account clerk in the Finance Department responsible for CFSA's accounts payable and other related duties. Filling her spot is Sharon Rathburn, whose current position has her handling fair payrolls and providing accounting services for several fairs.

If you'd like to meet Cailee and Sharon, or for a chance to say good bye to Lianne in person, all three will be attending the WFA Open House, Thursday, August 25, at Cal Expo.

A Cure for the Common Code

For Safety Reasons, CFSA May Encourage Fairs to Go Beyond "Up to Code"

So why, if an electrical box or set of bleachers, for example, are "up to code" does CFSA sometimes recommend further safety measures above and beyond what's required by law? It's a good question and one CFSA's safety specialists are frequently asked while conducting fairtime and interim fairground safety inspections.

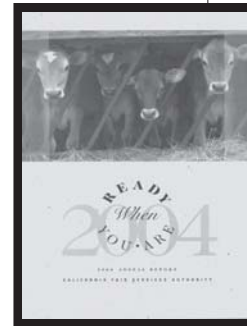
To answer it, Tom Allen, CFSA's safety manager, began with some background information. As a member of California's DAA, county, state and citrus fruit fair network, your fair has the opportunity to participate in CFSA's self-insurance pools, a series of risk-sharing pools that take the place of traditional insurance. And, depending on the pools in which you're

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One Fair, 706 Employees, 0 Employee Accidents: Alameda County Fair Makes Safety a Priority

Take one 17-day fair with 706 employees working at warp speed to welcome more than 403,000 guests, and most odds makers would have to shrug their shoulders and say, "accidents happen." But, then again, they didn't take into account the Alameda County Fair. By making employee safety a fairtime priority, the fair accomplished what many would say is near impossible: a fair with no employee accidents. How'd they do it? With introspection, pre-planning, teamwork and a strong partnership among employees. By instilling a sense of safety ownership, fair

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CFSA's 2004 Annual Report is in the Mail

By now, every fair manager should have received copies of "Ready When You Are," CFSA's 2004 annual report. Inside the report you'll find a summary of CFSA's activities during the year, along with Management's Discussion and Analysis, and CFSA's financial statements.

If you'd like additional copies, please call Melissa Thurber at 916/263-6163.

CFSA Board Meeting Set for August 24

Come see for yourself how CFSA's directors are working for you. The next CFSA board meeting will be Wednesday, August 24, at the Fair Services building in Sacramento. For more information, contact Donna Horner, 916/263-6160. As soon as the meeting's agenda is finalized, a copy will be posted on CFSA's Web site, <http://www.cfsa.org/about/agenda.htm>

"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."

~ Carl Sagan



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Let's hear from you!
Contact *fyi* at:
916/263-6163
Fax: 916/646-1238
mthurber@cfsa.org
Visit our Web site (there's new stuff!): www.cfsa.org

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"Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits."

~ Thomas A. Edison

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George Gomes, continued

George joined the California Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization, in 1987. Prior to this he served as chief deputy director of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and as assistant director of the department's Division of Fairs and Expositions. In addition to serving on CFSA's board, George is chairman of the California FFA Foundation and on the boards of several other agricultural associations.

Beyond "Up to Code," continued

participating, your fair is eligible for a variety of valuable safety services, including CFSA's popular:

- Fairtime/Amusement Ride inspection program
- Safety training & certification programs
- Facility inspection & employee safety program reviews

CFSA's goal for these programs and reviews, Tom explained, is to help your fair reduce the number and severity of fairground accidents and, as a result, to help keep your annual pool fees as low as possible. CFSA is *not* a regulatory agency, he emphasized, and "our inspections and recommendations are designed to provide you with the information and ideas you need to enhance the safety of your facility and operations." The reason CFSA's Safety specialists refer to specific state codes when making safety recommendations is because your fair is required by law to comply with them.

Codes and standards: An integral part of the state's safety codes, and another word you'll frequently hear when talking with CFSA's Safety specialists, is "standards." Standards are generally written and updated by members of the industry to which the standards apply, including manufacturers, part suppliers, users, government agencies, operators, and insurance companies, and are adopted or added directly to the legislation for a particular code.

Complying with a code, Tom continued, means you're only meeting the **minimum legal standard** (the minimum level of safety mandated by local, state, or federal legislation) necessary to ensure public or employee safety. And while safety codes are often perceived as the highest standard achievable, CFSA considers them to be a starting point and the foundation of an effective safety and loss control program.

But, Tom noted, this doesn't automatically mean CFSA always expects fairs to go beyond code; many codes are tried and true benchmarks for safety with no need for additional safety factors. That said, Tom added that there are circumstances, however, when "we'll make recommendations beyond a specific code, especially when experience shows us that a particular code doesn't provide an acceptable level of safety or when we know that the code is behind current industry standards."

The bottom line: When CFSA makes a recommendation that exceeds a current code requirement, it's done to protect fair patrons and fair employees from a known safety hazard.

Tom wrapped up by mentioning that the next issue of *fyi* will include an article focusing on bleachers and CFSA's safety recommendations versus current building codes, and the use of Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter devices in commercial settings. In the meantime, should you have any questions about anything you've read here, contact Tom at 916/263-6186.

Alameda, continued

management laid the foundation for a successful safety program featuring daily safety tips discussed everywhere from employee orientations to daily staff meetings and the staff newsletter.

Vicki Hunter, the fair's human resources supervisor, reported there were 17 employee accidents during the 2004 fair that resulted in workers' compensation claims. To eliminate similar incidents this year, fair management studied the accident reports focusing on the circumstances contributing to the accidents. Armed with this information, they developed a series of innovative accident prevention strategies involving all permanent and temporary workers.

For instance, last year a maintenance worker was severely injured while emptying a heavy 55-gallon garbage can. To prevent similar accidents this year, the fair hired their workers' compensation medical group to develop and conduct specially tailored medical exams and agility tests to determine a job candidate's suitability for this physically demanding work.

Another area of ongoing concern involved the potential for workers' comp fraud. To discourage this, fair management again turned to the fair's employees and asked them to report any suspicious activity.

Everyone's efforts paid off and when the fair ended, employees were awarded a commemorative pin thanking them for a safe fair. Few people would argue with Vicki's assessment that the fair's investment of \$600 for the medical group's exams and another \$1,000 for the pins was definitely money well spent.

Want to know more about the Alameda County Fair's safety program? Contact Vicki Hunter, 925/426-7692.