



**Attention: All California DAA Fairs**

**The Fair Industry's Inspection Program Agreement with the Office of the State Fire Marshal Could be in Jeopardy!**

In 2007, California's district agricultural association (DAA) fairs began receiving bills for Fire and Life Safety inspections conducted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). There was a great deal of concern expressed by the fair industry regarding these inspections and more specifically, the cost of the inspections. The Division of Fairs and Expositions contacted OSFM management, who agreed to meet with fair industry members at the 2007 California Fairs Alliance Conference (CFA) in Sacramento. During that meeting, both the fairs and OSFM shared their concerns.

Late that same year and in early 2008, the Division of Fairs and Expositions hosted a series of meetings with representatives from OSFM, CFA, California Construction Authority and CFSA. In May, members of CFSA's Safety team met directly with OSFM management, laying the foundation for a cooperative program between OSFM and the fair industry. This program and relationship, reports Tom Allen, CFSA's safety manager, was based on trust, respect and mutual commitment. In this program, CFSA promised to educate and to help monitor the industry while completing much of the pre-fair and fairtime inspection work. For the past two and a half years, the fair industry has seen a significant reduction in billings from OSFM. Unfortunately, Tom continued, over the past year, several incidents may have jeopardized that trust.

**What you need to know:** The California State Fire Marshal's Office is the "authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)" for fire and life safety regulations at ALL DAA FAIRS. The OSFM is required by California law to ensure the safety of California's citizens and all State owned or operated facilities. According to Tom, the cooperative program with the fair industry is unique and exists at the will and discretion of the Fire Marshal's office. "OSFM agreed to work with the fair industry, allowing us the latitude to 'police' ourselves using the framework of CFSA's existing safety programs. The fair industry agreed that they would work hard to comply with OSFM regulations for construction and event safety issues."

"If the fair industry wishes to continue to realize generous reductions in inspection fees, we must be proactive and diligent in following these regulations," Tom said. "More importantly, as stewards of publicly owned facilities, we have an ethical and legal obligation to make certain that we protect the public and their trust."

In the very near future, all DAA's will receive a memo from CFSA detailing the specific issues and OSFM's regulations and requirements. For a complete list of these regulations and requirements now, please contact your assigned CFSA safety specialist or Tom Allen at 916/263-6186.

**WFA's 2010 Feature Fair Tour Travels to Puyallup and Yakima, Washington**

What's one of the most enjoyable (and productive) ways to network with colleagues while exploring new ideas for your own fair? Western Fairs Association's Feature Fair Tour!

This year's tour takes you north to the Puyallup Fair and the Central Washington State Fair, Friday - Sunday, September 24 - 26.

**Free Your Glee!**

The tour kicks off at the Puyallup Fair. First stop is a reception with fair staff and directors. The evening's concert features Billy Currington and special guest, Uncle Kracker. Tickets are courtesy of the fair.

Tour highlights include learning about the Puyallup Fair and Events Center, one of the largest rental facilities in the Pacific Northwest and an environmental leader in the region. You'll also find out about the Puyallup Fair School and the Traveling Farm Project — the fair's outreach to children unable to attend the fair. Afterwards take in the Barham Award-winning Mutton Bustin' Show, a train ride through a 120-ft. mine shaft-themed tunnel (you'll see 3-D dinosaurs!)

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"Speak your mind, but ride a fast horse."

~ Anonymous



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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:  
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*CFSA's 2009 Annual Report*  
CFSA's 2009 Annual Report is just about done and ready for printing. Watch your mail! Every California fair will receive copies for both fair management and board directors. The theme this year is, "Done!"

"If you wish another to keep a secret, first keep it to yourself."

~ Seneca

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### **WFA Fair Tours, continued . . .**

or a spin on the fair's permanent roller coaster.

The next morning, enjoy breakfast and fair staff presentations followed by a guided tour of the fair's state-of-the-art buildings and arena.

### **Yakima Bound!**

At 11:45 a.m. you'll board the bus for lunch at the world famous Whistlin' Jack Lodge. Then it's on to the Central Washington State Fair (CWSF). Fair board member and former congressman Sid Morrison will welcome everyone and then provide a history of the fair and the surrounding area.

CWSF is a showcase of agriculture with world-renowned Grange displays, livestock and horticulture displays, farm equipment, and an exhibit of the area's fastest growing commodities: Yakima valley wine and wine grapes.

You'll tour the fairgrounds, get a close look at the fair's remodeled 100-year-old buildings and enjoy a behind-the-scenes peek at the SunDome, a covered arena used for concerts, rodeos and more. Then it's off to a wine reception with the CWSF board and staff, followed by your choice of a concert with The Guess Who or entrance to the American Sprint car races; tickets compliments of the fair.

The next morning it's back to the fairgrounds for breakfast and the opportunity to explore the fairgrounds on a guided tour or on your own (don't miss the animation exhibit!).

At 2 p.m. buses leave for the Seattle airport and Puyallup.

### **Make Your Tour Reservations Today:**

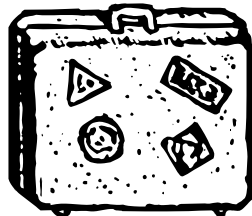
#### **Ticket prices:**

**\$350** Visit two fairs for one price! Includes hotels (two nights), breakfasts, receptions, bus ride to Yakima and lunch, transportation to and from airport and/or hotels, and a tour shirt. Bring your spouse or a guest for \$100 (includes everything listed above).

**\$175** Puyallup only or Yakima only. Includes one night at a hotel, breakfast, fair reception, transportation and a tour shirt.

**\$75** Meet us in Puyallup or Yakima. Includes breakfast, fair reception and a tour shirt.

If you have questions about the tour or would like to make a reservation, please contact Liz Waxstein, at 916/927-3100.



### **Have You Shopped CFSA's Online Best Buys Page?**

Batteries to binders, chairs and tables. And then some. CFSA's buyer, Cailee DeFoe knows a killer deal when she finds one and now you can find these limited time special buys online at [www.cfsa.org](http://www.cfsa.org). (You'll find the "Best Buys" page via the "Purchasing" tab on the website's home page main menu.)

To place an order, contact Cailee at 916/263-6191 or [cdefoe@cfsa.org](mailto:cdefoe@cfsa.org).

### **Heat Illness Prevention Training: Required by Cal/OSHA, Available from CFSA's Safety Team**

Did you know there's a significant risk for heat illness when the temperature is above 80 in the sun or above 90 degrees in the shade?

Make sure everyone at your fair (especially employees who work outdoors and their supervisors) knows how to prevent and treat the signs of heat induced illnesses. Make sure too that you have a Heat Illness Prevention plan as part of your fair's written IIPP. It's California law!

If you have any questions about developing a Heat Illness Prevention Program or would like your fair's assigned safety specialist to provide your staff with training, contact your safety specialist or Tom Allen, CFSA's safety manager, at 916/263-6186.

You'll also find information in the July 17, 2009 *fyi* newsletter, online at [www.cfsa.org](http://www.cfsa.org). Click on "Publications," then select "*fyi* Newsletter Archive."