



Here's the Latest on DOSH's Gondola-Style Ferris Wheel Safety Restraint Requirements

In 2006, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, commonly referred to as DOSH or Cal-OSHA, issued a Preliminary Order to California's carnival owners regarding gondola-style Ferris Wheels. This order, explains Tom Allen, CFSA's safety manager, requires owners of Giant Wheels, Century Wheels, Mulligan Wheels and Grand Wheels to have a licensed engineer design a modification for

each gondola so that passengers are safely secured in their seats throughout the ride. The original order was issued November 1, and since then, DOSH has granted a number of extensions giving ride owners more time to evaluate how best to comply with it.

On June 12, 2007, a final letter was sent to all affected ride owners stating that they will not be allowed to operate these rides in California after June 30, 2007, unless they have complied with the Preliminary Order.

The Plot Thickens. During the first week in July, however, the California Department of Industrial Relations' legal office released a letter extending the temporary permits, pending a formal hearing. So, what do you do now?

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CDFA's 2007/2008 Expenditure Plan for California's Fair Network is Undergoing a Major Renovation

Mike Treacy, director of the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA's) Division of Fairs and Expositions, and Bruce Lim, assistant director, report that for the 2007/2008 fiscal year and beyond, CDFA is proposing a major overhaul to its funding methodology and spending plan for California's fairs. The current methodology and spending plan, which has been in place for more than 15 years, funds allocations directly to the fairs for baseline operational support and related fair programs. In general, the smallest fairs receive the greatest support, while the larger fairs are expected to be more self-sufficient.

While this approach has been quite successful over the years, a decline in horse racing dollars and the ongoing deterioration of fair facilities have forced the CDFA to rethink its allocation strategy and to come up with a plan that revolves around sustainability and that produces a significant infusion of funding to California fairgrounds.

The CDFA's proposed Expenditure Plan will continue to

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Height of Fair Season Brings Fun-Filled WFA Events!

Summer's in full swing and WFA has several exciting events planned for the coming months. First, WFA will host its annual Open House Reception at the California State Fair, Thursday, August 23 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Join friends for an evening of mingling, networking and...free food! Also on August 23, there will be a Professional Development Committee Meeting at 10:00 a.m., a WFA Board and Finance Meeting at 1:00 p.m., and a CFA Board Meeting at 3:30 p.m. For more details, including specific meeting locations, please check the WFA Web site, www.WesternFairs.org, in August.

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No Time for Computer Maintenance?

Put it on Autopilot

With fair season upon us, computer maintenance is probably the last thing on your mind. But to keep your PC running smoothly ~ especially during peak periods ~ regular maintenance is critical.

The first step is to automate your computer utilities to run on their own. Both the Disk Cleanup utility and the Disk Defragmenter can be set up to run automatically in the "background" while you use your computer. The Disk Cleanup, helps free up space on your hard disk by searching the disk for files you can safely delete, and the Disk Defragmenter organizes files and optimizes their placement on the hard drive for increased reliability and performance.

Anti-virus and anti-spyware programs are two other valuable maintenance tools, and take only minutes to install. You can download reputable and

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Oh, Was I Driving? Report Motor Vehicle Accidents to ORIM

Anytime a DAA fair-owned vehicle is involved in an accident ~ this includes golf carts and trams ~ you must report it within 48 hours to the Office of Risk and Insurance Management (ORIM). Use the Vehicle Accident Report, STD 270, found on ORIM's Web site: www.orim.dgs.ca.gov. Except for the diagram and signatures, the form can be filled in online, then printed, signed and mailed. If the accident involves injuries to non-employees, the report should be faxed to ORIM: 916/376-5277.

Questions? Please contact Rich Beck, ORIM's risk manager: rich.beck@dgs.ca.gov or call him at: 916/376-5295.

"There is nothing good or bad, but thinking makes it so."
- Hamlet (Shakespeare)

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"Action is eloquence."
- Coriolanus (Shakespeare)

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FAIR FACTS: DID YOU KNOW?

- As a result of funding from horse racing, fairs do not place any burden on the State's General Fund.
- California fairs' total economic impact to the State, based on spending, is more than \$2.5 billion annually.
- California fairs provide a significant social impact by connecting communities with their nonprofit- and charity-based community organizations and other local interests.
- California fairs play a significant role with the State's emergency preparedness and response.

DOSH Ferris Wheel Safety, continued

DOSH is the State of California regulatory authority regarding portable amusement rides and has the authority to issue or revoke operating permits on any amusement ride in California. Until DOSH has reached a final decision on the gondola-style Ferris Wheel safety restraint issue, CFSA recommends fair managers check with their carnival to ensure that all affected wheel rides have a valid DOSH permit.

CFSA safety inspectors will keep you informed of all new developments on this issue and are available by phone for any questions regarding ride permits. You can also reach Tom at 916/263-6186.

Fairs' Expenditure Plan, continued

include baseline allocations to fairs, but will be revamped in virtually every other area. The new long-range funding strategy will have an investment approach to spending that includes leveraging existing resources to create perpetual funding sources. Efforts made by the fairs to secure matching funds and local contributions will be highly encouraged and rewarded. In addition, resources will be consolidated into fewer programs allowing the CDFA to fund larger projects that haven't been feasible due to a large number of existing programs and fairs all requiring funding at the same time. Financing, equity capital and grant opportunities appealing to fairs of all sizes are also part of the new plan.

The revised strategy expects to accumulate \$163 million in working capital over the next 10 years and includes \$40 million in "new" funds generated through replenishment.

Bruce explained that it's the Secretary of Food and Agriculture's responsibility to prepare an annual expenditure plan for funds available from the Fair and Exposition Fund. This plan is then submitted for review and approval by the Joint Committee on Fairs Allocation and Classification.

The formulation of the annual plan includes input from the California fair industry and key fair business partners to ensure its relevancy and support by key stakeholders. The plan is also the product of the unique and very long-term partnership between agricultural fairs and California's horse racing industry, dating back to the 1860s. In fact, it was the California Horse Racing Act of 1933 that legalized pari-mutuel betting on horse racing and established for the fairs' support a special account in state government funded by a portion of betting receipts. The CDFA serves as the steward of these funds, ensuring their appropriate use and monitoring the fairs' adherence to sound fiscal policies.

For more information about the proposed Expenditure Plan, please contact Bruce Lim at the Division of Fairs and Expositions: blim@cdfa.ca.gov or 916/263-2459.

WFA Events, continued

Also this fall, Western Fairs will host its first-ever "south of the border" Feature Fair Tour! We'll be venturing to the Fiestas del Sol in Mexicali, Mexico, October 5 - 7. Plan to check out local color in the Palenque, entertainment at the Island of the Stars, a Rodeo, the diverse foods of the Terrace, and so much more!

Registration forms are now available online at: www.WesternFairs.org or call Sarah at 916/927-3100 to have a form mailed or faxed to you. Registration is \$225 per person and everyone is invited.

Computers, continued

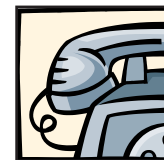
effective programs off the Internet for free or you can purchase enhanced versions that can be programmed to run automatically. All major anti-virus programs include an update feature that gives you the opportunity to update your program version to newer ones as they become available. This way you're ensured that your version is equipped to take care of the new viruses roaming the Internet. Anti-spyware, such as Ad-Aware, must also be updated on a regular basis.

Another crucial part of your computer maintenance plan should be regular file backups. At a minimum, all files such as passwords, favorite places, address books, financial and tax records, important documents and correspondence (including e-mail), and any other personal data that has more than transitory value should be backed up some place other than on your hard drive (in case it crashes) such as on CDs or on an external hard drive.

Note: If you use Windows XP, the operating system comes with its own software for making backups.

CFSA is Here to Help

Now that you know what you can do, Mike Johnson and Kris King, CFSA's computer information specialists, will be happy to tell you how. Contact Mike Johnson at mjohnson@cfsa.org or Kris King at kking@cfsa.org.



**Is your
fair going
"green"?**

Share your tips and techniques as well as your accomplishments in fyi. Contact Melissa Thurber, fyi's editor, at mthurber@cfsa.org or 916/263-6163.