



## Health & Safety at The Big Fresno Fair

The Big Fresno Fair is the largest annual event in the Central Valley and the fifth largest in the State of California, attracting more than 600,000 visitors during the 13-day event. As such, the Fair's top priority is to provide a safe and healthy environment for families to enjoy. This is a huge responsibility, which The Big Fresno Fair Management Team takes very seriously.

To annually provide a safe and healthy environment for patrons, the Fair works year round with a variety of State, County, City and private agencies to comply with and exceed the health and safety requirements set forth by the State of California, County of Fresno and City of Fresno. Those entities are:

**Fresno Police Department** | The Big Fresno Fair contracts annually with the Fresno City Police Department to oversee and work in conjunction with other Fair security operations to ensure the safety of our Fair patrons. Security at The Big Fresno Fair is managed by Lt. Mike Brogdon and Sgt. Dave Gibeault of the Traffic Division of the Fresno Police Department. At any given time, there are roughly 60 – 80 police officers throughout the grounds (depending upon crowd size) and at the gates, not to mention the officers patrolling outside the Fair gates. The Big Fresno Fair works year-round with the Fresno Police Department to develop a comprehensive security plan and then meets throughout the year with all safety partners to discuss the implementation of that plan.

In 2017, the Fair implemented a new admissions policy developed in collaboration with the Fresno Police Department that made the Fair an even more family-friendly place to be – especially on the weekends when crowds are larger. As part of that new policy, all guests on Fridays and Saturdays are required to wear a wristband provided at the point of entry at all times while inside of the Fair. Any guests not wearing the designated wristband will be subject to questioning and could be asked to leave the Fair. Additionally, guests will not be able to re-enter the Fair on Friday and Saturday nights after 9 p.m. Furthermore, as part of the new Youth Admission Policy, all minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian (age 21+) in order to be admitted into the Fair after 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. The Fair also added 29 more surveillance cameras, bringing the total to 89, which cover the entire Fairgrounds. These cameras are accessed by FPD from their on-site command station to monitor crowd activity and direct officers swiftly. New this year, the Fair also added walk-through metal detectors to each entrance gate – replacing the former wand technique. This will further ensure the safety of Fairgoers at this annual tradition.

*"The Big Fresno Fair is not only the largest, but the safest public event in the Central Valley. That is due to the hard work of Fair Management and their continued commitment to collaborate with the Fresno Police Department to take the necessary steps to provide the safest event possible," said Chief Dyer, Fresno Police Department. "The Weekend Admission Policy further enforces the Fair's zero tolerance and strongly delivers the message that 'if you're looking for trouble, the Fair is not the place to be.' Last year was one of the safest Fairs on record and that can be attributed in part to these new policies."*



**Fresno County Private Security** | Fresno County Private Security is contracted by The Big Fresno Fair to work in conjunction with and augment other contracted Fair security to ensure the safety of patrons. This is the eighth year that the Fair has worked with Fresno County Private Security, which complements the uniformed Fresno Police officers on grounds to provide the safest environment possible for Fairgoers.

**Fresno County Department of Public Health** | The Big Fresno Fair works closely with the Fresno County Department of Public Health to ensure all food and drink vendors comply with the regulations as specified in the California Health and Safety Code. Additionally, the Fair collaborates with the Fresno County Department of Public Health on a comprehensive health education program to be sure key health and safety related topics are relayed to Fairgoers.

**American Ambulance** | American Ambulance is contracted by The Big Fresno Fair to have a physical presence on grounds to provide emergency medical response for medical related needs during the Fair. Not only do they provide medical attention for Fairgoers, but they also provide services at the Fair's horse racing track. The Fair has worked with American Ambulance for more than 18 years.

**California Fair Services Authority (CFSA)** | Each year, The Big Fresno Fair works closely with the California Fair Services Authority (CFSA), a not-for-profit joint powers authority in Sacramento offering member services including: safety specialists, risk pool management, loss control expertise, claims adjusting, accounting and more. CFSA inspectors work with the Fair to ensure the safety of all buildings and attractions in an effort to make the Fair a safe place to visit. Inspections by CFSA are ongoing throughout the run of the Fair on all general Fairground public areas, buildings and Table Mountain Rancheria Park.

**Wagner Consulting Group** | Butler Amusements has contracted with Wagner Consulting Group to provide a third party inspection of all carnival rides. The company conducts ride inspections during the carnival set up, making sure the rides continue to operate properly and safely.

**State Fire Marshall's Office & Fresno City Fire Department** | The Big Fresno Fair works closely with the State Fire Marshall to ensure there are no fire hazards at the Fair and that all buildings are within fire safety compliance. Additionally, the Fair works with the Fresno Fire Department to ensure there is a quick response plan in place should there be an emergency.

**Livestock Veterinarian** | The Big Fresno Fair contracts with a licensed veterinarian, Stephanie Murphy DVM, to be on-site during the 13-day run of the Fair. Dr. Murphy oversees the inspection of animals prior to Fair when they are being off-loaded to ensure they are healthy when they arrive. Then she continually monitors animals during the Fair to ensure they remain healthy and addresses any concerns brought to her attention by their 4-H and FFA owners.

**Horse Racing Track Veterinarian** | The Big Fresno Fair contracts with a California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) approved veterinarian to be on-site during the 13-day run of the Fair. Veterinarian F.G. Franklin DVM and Sarah Sporer DVM Track and Fitness Veterinarian will inspect each and every horse prior to racing to ensure it is without injury and is in good health to race.