

News Release

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Food Inspectors Work to Insure Safe Food at Community Festivals

Sacramento, CA – Every year, Sacramento is home to dozens of community festivals that attract thousands of people to celebrate culture, music and food. Most of us are not aware that the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department is involved behind the scenes before and during the event to help keep the public safe.

Consider the example of the Sacramento Hmong New Year festival that drew approximately 40,000 people during the Thanksgiving holiday. The Department's Environmental Health Division worked closely with festival coordinators to promote food safety, even presenting a food preparation training seminar in the Hmong language prior to the festival. The food vendors were invited to attend the training, and high-risk food operators were required to participate.

Pre-event inspections were done at high-risk food booths to ensure that food booth operators were adequately prepared and booth operators were provided a check list to help insure safe operation. Fifty-six food booths were inspected on Thanksgiving morning alone. Food items included: produce tea, Hmong sausages, purple sticky rice, papaya salad, barbeque chicken, fish, pork, noodle dishes, rice dishes, pho, and nava, a popular tri-color tapioca dessert.

"Most people are aware that we inspect restaurants and grocery stores because of the popular Yellow, Green, Red placards, but few are aware that we perform also perform hundreds of food inspections at outdoor community events every year, including the State Fair," said Val Siebal, Director of the Environmental Health Department. "If food is being commercially served to the public, we have been involved."

For more information, visit the Environmental Health Department website at <http://www.emd.saccounty.net/>. To see the inspection results for your favorite restaurant, visit <http://www.foodinspect.saccounty.net/default.aspx>.

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