



Great Scale Model Train and Railroad Collectors Show

Public Safety, Site Security & Insurance

PUBLIC SAFETY: Owing to the well publicized disasters in public places over the past decade, the Maryland State Fair management takes visitor safety very seriously; so seriously, in fact, that the current safety officer is a retired Maryland Fire Marshall. Fire and the forces of nature are the primary concern, and where thousands of people occupy an enclosed space, "crowd control" is the essential mechanism for protecting people from injury, or worse. We WANT to exceed the requirements of show operators, and set a good example of high regard for public safety.

Show Vendors have a special role to play, both to protect themselves and staff, and nearby members of the public. Here are some practical steps you can take:

- Observe the location of exits, marked by exit signs above them. If you see anything blocking an exit or impeding reasonably speedy egress in the immediate area, bring it to our attention.
- In the event of an evacuation, an announcement will be made over the public address system, directing people to appropriate exit points. Provided that you, yourself, are in no immediate danger, you may assist by opening the doors if they are nearby, and pointing the way.
- Otherwise note the location and operation of roll up loading doors. These are not "exits" within the meaning of the fire code, but they certainly are a way to evacuate many people quickly, should the need arise. Our table layout diagram will be conformed so that some loading doors are partially accessible, allowing a similar path of egress as would a regular exit.
- Consider taking the brief, on-line, crowd management course offered by the Maryland State Fire Marshall's office (<http://www.firemarshal.state.md.us/crowdmanager>). It is fundamentally an exercise in "common sense," but if many vendors take the course, then we'll all be on the "same page" if we need to act in a coordinated effort. There is an optional test and certificate of completion, should you wish to avail yourself of these. If so, please bring a copy of your certificate with you, which we will include in our compliance documentation.

In over 3 decades of shows, we've never had an incident. However, being prepared not only gives us an edge if something does occur, but also allows us to enjoy the shows more, knowing that we're ready to respond.

SITE SECURITY: The show premises is locked after closing, and continuously occupied by a security officer who regularly patrols the entire premises and unlocks the building in the morning about 30 minutes before vendors may enter. During the show, Fair Officials may inspect the show for compliance, or otherwise in response to our call for assistance (very rare). Although the mysterious disappearance of merchandise is so rare as to be virtually non-existent, vendors may prefer to remove items of exceptional or concentrated value after the Saturday show closes for the day. We recommend that you do whatever best serves your own comfort level.

INSURANCE: Vendors who are selling their own personal property (not in the business of selling) may generally expect an insurance recovery under their homeowner's or tenant's policy for loss or damage to their personal property, subject to deductibles or other policy conditions. If you are a business, consider coverage of property while away from your business, and coverage for public liability.