



Consumer Protection Division
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TEMPORARY EVENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Temporary Event Program evaluates food distribution and service by non-permanent (temporary) food facilities at community events within the County of Santa Clara. The California Retail Food Code (CalCode) allows for retail or charitable food distribution to the public only from permitted or specifically exempted food facilities.

A temporary event permit is required when food or beverage is to be sampled, sold, or given at a community event. A “Community Event” is defined as an event that is of a civic, political, public or educational nature, including state and county fairs, city festivals, circuses, and other public gathering events approved by the local enforcement agency. A “Temporary Food Facility” (TFF) is defined as a food facility approved by the enforcement officer that...is easily movable and operates at a fixed location for the duration of an approved community event or at a swap meet. TFF’s must generally meet all applicable requirements of CalCode unless specifically exempted by the Department of Environmental Health (DEH). TFF’s will be permitted by DEH only when associated with a community event.

The Department of Environmental Health is responsible for the review of all temporary food facility applications and the issuance of permits. The structural and sanitation requirements for a TFF are based upon the food service activity to be conducted, the type of food that is to be prepared or served, the length of the event, and the extent of food preparation during and prior to the event. Routine inspections are conducted during each event to monitor compliance and promote food safety awareness. Prior to the event a site evaluation, public training presentation, pre-event meeting, or file review may be conducted to improve the likelihood of favorable outcomes for both the permittees and consumers. Following the event, a summary of performance with suggestions and comments is provided to the event coordinator for future use.

Click **here** to contact a specialist within this program.