

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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**ATTACHMENT 9**

Date: August 21, 2014

To: **State Board of Fire Services**

From: James Parsegian
Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal
Fire Engineering & Arson-Bomb Division

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Fireworks Seizure and Destruction Operations. This regular update is for informational purposes only. No action is presently required. This update is for seizure and destruction operations for the 2014 calendar year.

Recommended Actions:

Information/discussion only.

Background Information:

Pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Section 12726, the Office of the State Fire Marshal is responsible for the disposal of all dangerous fireworks seized by State or Local authorities.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:Fireworks Disposal

No fireworks destruction operations have taken place in 2014. However, in June 2014, 20,658 pounds of fireworks were shipped to a disposal facility in Missouri.

Approximately 202,500 pounds of seized fireworks were carried over from calendar year 2013. As of July 2014, approximately 192,000 pounds of fireworks have been reported seized. 2014. This brings the current inventory to 374,000 pounds.

Fireworks Seizures

The Office of the State Fire Marshal's Fire Engineering & Arson-Bomb Division, in conjunction with CAL FIRE prevention law enforcement and other local law enforcement, has conducted several enforcement and interdiction operations so far this year.

Activities include a seizure operation in the Northern part of the state involved illegal fireworks located in a private household on an Indian Reservation and a week-long interdiction of fireworks illegally brought into the southern part of the state.

Licensing

The Fireworks program processed approximately 3113 retail fireworks license applications for the 2014 Fourth of July season. There are currently 1,393 active pyrotechnic operators' licenses and 116 active company licenses.

The Fireworks program is currently working on an updated regulations package which is expected to be finalized in the near future. A report will be provided to the State Board of Fire Services at a future meeting.

Fireworks Disposal Funding

A fireworks distribution tax was proposed in the 2014 legislative cycle. This proposed legislation is intended to provide a sustainable funding for fireworks safe handling, disposal, training, and training of public safety agencies.

At present, the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Fireworks Disposal Program continues to remain without a consistent source of funding for this program.