



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

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ATTACHMENT 8

Date: May 21, 2015

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: PAUL S. ECK, Division Chief
Fire Engineering & Arson Bomb Division

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Fireworks Seizure and Destruction Operations. This regular update is for informational purposes only.

Recommended Actions:

Information/discussion only.

Background Information:

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

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

Fireworks Disposal

No fireworks thermal destruction operations have taken place in 2015.

In 2015 we have disposed of approximately 99,000 pounds of seized fireworks by shipping them through a hazardous waste disposal contract.

As of this date, OSFM seizure reports indicate there is approximately 275,000 pounds of seized fireworks remaining in the State. It is believed that there are additional quantities of seized fireworks that have yet to be reported.

Fireworks Seizures

The OSFM's Fire Engineering / Arson-Bomb Division conducted zero fireworks interdiction or seizure operations in 2015.

Licensing

As of this date, the Fireworks program has processed approximately 2,784 retail fireworks license applications for the 2015 Fourth of July season. Additional license applications continue to be received and processed.

The program is currently working on an updated regulations package which is expected to be finalized in the 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A fireworks distribution tax was proposed in the 2014-15 legislative cycle and withdrawn by the Administration. The proposed legislation was intended to provide a sustainable funding source for safe fireworks handling, shipping, disposal, and the training of public safety agencies.

During the 2014-15 fiscal year, the Governor's budget requested and the legislature appropriated, one time funding of \$1.5 million dollars for the disposal of seized fireworks within the physical control of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.