

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 653-7772
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: March 5, 2012

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: BEN HO, Division Chief

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Fireworks and the Disposal of Fireworks Update. This regular update is for information only and no action is required.

Recommended Actions: N/A

Background Information:

Most California communities are encountering sizable amounts of illegal fireworks being sold and used in their community. These illegal devices are being brought in from neighboring states by both the end users as well as individuals whose intent is to resell the items here in California. Health and Safety Code delegates the State Fire Marshal's Office the responsibility for the destruction of dangerous and illegal fireworks once they are seized by local fire departments and law enforcement agencies.

Analysis/Summary of Issue: N/A

Due to environmental issues raised by the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) state environmental laws and regulations no longer permit open burning for the disposal of seized dangerous fireworks. More extensive steps are now required in order to dispose of confiscated material. These requirements have dramatically increased the costs associated with the disposal process as no substantial funding exists to support the legislatively mandated requirement imposed on the SFM.