State of California **The Resources Agency**

Memorandum

To: California Fire Service & Law Enforcement Agencies

Date: May 18, 2007

Telephone: (530) 945-7147

CALNET:

Website: www.fire.ca.gov

From: **Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**
Office of the State Fire Marshal /Arson-Bomb Unit

Subject: Fireworks Seizures

The California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection/Office of the State Fire Marshal has established the following procedure for dealing with the collection of Dangerous Fireworks Seized by Public Safety Agencies throughout California.

Routine Seizures (quantities that are temporarily manageable by the seizing agency):

1. Inventory, randomly sample and photograph the seized fireworks
2. Complete a Dangerous Fireworks Seizure form (available on the CDF/OSFM Website http://www.fire.ca.gov/ go the State Fire Marshal, Fire Engineering, Fireworks) and forward it as directed.
3. The following items should be removed from the seized fireworks:
    a. Improvised Explosive Devices/Explosives (Call your local Bomb Squad immediately)
    b. Trash (including expended fireworks)
    c. Lighters and matches
    d. Non-fireworks related evidence or contraband (weapons/drugs/paraphernalia, etc)
    e. Friction initiated fireworks (Snap Caps, etc) should be segregated
4. If the fireworks are in the original DOT shipping cartons they may be left in them.
5. Loose fireworks must be placed in good quality cardboard boxes (such as banker boxes, the boxes that photocopy paper comes in, or similar sized moving boxes. The boxes must have functional lids. **(Note: fireworks will not be accepted loose, in bags, or in boxes that are falling apart)**
6. The boxes must be labeled with the following information: type of fireworks, seizing Agency's name, person responsible for the sorting, and the date.
7. The CDF/OSFM will have an Investigator contact you to arrange collection.

Immediate Assistance Required Seizures (quantities that exceed the capability of the local agency to temporarily manage)

1. Call 1-888-FWX-ENFC (1-888-399-3632). This 24 hour a day number will connect you with a CDF/OSFM Investigator. They will assist you with arranging for temporary staging.
2. Inventory, randomly sample and photograph the seized fireworks.
3. Complete a Dangerous Fireworks Seizure form (available on the CDF/OSFM Website (www.fire.ca.gov) go the State Fire Marshal, Fire Engineering, Fireworks) and forward it as directed.
4. Do not remove from original DOT shipping cartons if they are still in them.

In either case be aware that the seizing agency is still the lead agency, responsible for prosecuting the case. CDF/OSFM will provide whatever assistance is needed; however, this is a cooperative effort and may, depending upon the quantities seized, require personnel support in moving the fireworks.

ALWAYS REMEMBER that fireworks are energetic materials that are inherently dangerous. Heat, Shock and Friction may ignite them; in all cases SAFETY should be the primary concern. Feel free to contact CDF/OSFM, via 1-888-FWX-ENFC (1-888-399-3632) at any time you have a question or concern.

This number is for Public Safety Agencies ONLY, however, we encourage you to use it anytime you have questions concerning fireworks or anytime you have intelligence regarding illegal import or sales of Dangerous Fireworks.

Sincerely,

Greg W. Smith
Supervising Investigator
(530) 945-7147

CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIREWORKS SEIZURE INFORMATION

Please e-mail completed form to: Yevonne.Costa@fire.ca.gov
or
fax to (916) 445-8458

AGENCY NAME:	AGENCY PHONE:	DATE:
AGENCY ADDRESS:	CITY:	ZIP CODE:
INTERNET EMAIL ADDRESS:	SUBMITTED BY:	PHONE NUMBER:

Health & Safety Code Section 12723 requires the authority seizing any fireworks under the provisions of this chapter to notify the State Fire Marshal not more than three days following the date of seizure. The following questions need to be addressed:

DATE OF SEIZURE:	REASON FOR SEIZURE [H&S 12721]:	
TYPE OF FIREWORKS [H&S 12722]: ☐ ***Safe-n-Sane** [TITLE 19 986.6]	GROSS WEIGHT:	LOCATION OF STORED FIREWORKS:
DATE OF SEIZURE:	REASON FOR SEIZURE [H&S 12721]:	
TYPE OF FIREWORKS [H&S 12722]: ☐ **Dangerous** [H&S 12505]	GROSS WEIGHT:	LOCATION OF STORED FIREWORKS:

INCLUDES SNAP CAPS AND PARTY POPPERS

Any fireworks seized by any authority shall be held in trust for the State Fire Marshal.

Revised 05/18/2007