



CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin 18-008

Issued: June 29, 2018

Seized Fireworks Reporting and Disposal Process

Health and Safety Code mandates the CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) responsibility for the destruction of dangerous and illegal fireworks once they are seized by local fire departments or law enforcement agencies.

The Office and the Administration are working with the legislature on a solution that would provide funding for fireworks enforcement, education and disposal. We encourage your support in this collaborative effort. The OSFM will provide updated information once the proposal is chaptered into law.

The following procedures shall be followed for reporting the seizure of dangerous and illegal fireworks:

1. Submit a [fireworks seizure report](#) (attached) to OSFM via email to fwx@fire.ca.gov.
2. Fireworks shall be held in trust until agency is notified that disposal is available. An OSFM representative will contact you to schedule a date/time to collect the fireworks.
3. Only seized commercial fireworks with the Department of Transportation (DOT) classification of 1.4 will be accepted.
4. "Safe and Sane" fireworks, friction initiated fireworks (Snap Caps, Party Poppers, etc.), and 1.3 public display aerial shells and dangerous/illegal fireworks must be separated.
5. Leave fireworks in the original DOT shipping boxes, do not re-package in another box.
6. Loose fireworks shall be placed in quality cardboard boxes such as banker boxes, photocopy paper boxes, or similar size moving boxes with functional lids. ***(Note: Fireworks will not be accepted if they are loose, in bags, or in boxes that are falling apart.)***
7. The boxes shall be labeled with the following information:
 - a. Type of fireworks
 - b. Agency name
 - c. Name of person responsible for the sorting
 - d. Date of collection
8. It is recommended that fireworks are stored in storage buildings, trailers, semi-trailers, metal shipping containers or magazines. Storage areas should be maintained in a neat and orderly manner in accordance with local policies and procedures. Fireworks should not be stored in occupied buildings, work spaces, utility rooms, or near incompatible materials.

9. The following items are not the responsibility of the OSFM and ***WILL NOT BECOLLECTED***:
- a. Explosive devices or ammunition (Call your local bomb squad immediately)
 - b. Any fireworks and/or aerial shells classified as DOT 1.3 or greater
 - c. Homemade fireworks, chemicals, loose pyrotechnic powders, black powder, and smokeless powered.
 - d. Fuzees, flares, electric matches, and blasting caps.
 - e. Non-fireworks related evidence or contraband (weapons, drugs, paraphernalia, etc.)
 - f. Damaged or wet fireworks.
 - g. Lighters, matches, trash including expended fireworks.

For more information regarding the CAL FIRE - OSFM Fireworks Program, please visit our webpage at:

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/fire-engineering-and-investigations/fireworks/>

For questions please email the Fireworks Program at fwx@fire.ca.gov

Public Education Website:

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/more/fireworks-safety/>

Public Education Fact Sheet:

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/3078/public-education-fact-sheet.pdf>

Public Education Fact Sheet (Spanish):

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/3077/public-education-fact-sheet-espa%C3%B1ol.pdf>



CAL FIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Fire Engineering & Investigations Division – Fireworks Program
Fireworks Seizure Information

Please e-mail completed form to:

fwx@fire.ca.gov

AGENCY NAME:

AGENCY PHONE:

DATE:

AGENCY ADDRESS:

CITY:

ZIP CODE:

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. Provide the following information along with a copy of the citations and pictures of seized fireworks: Safe and Sane Fireworks ([State Approved Safe & Sane Fireworks](#))

Dangerous Fireworks (Defined in Health & Safety Code 12505)

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

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For questions please email: fwx@fire.ca.gov

Revised 07/15/2020

DATE OF SEIZURE:

REASON FOR SEIZURE [H&S
12721]:

GROSS WEIGHT:

LOCATION OF STORED
FIREWORKS:

DATE OF SEIZURE:

REASON FOR SEIZURE [H&S
12721]:

GROSS WEIGHT:

LOCATION OF STORED
FIREWORKS:

Fireworks Program

 OSFM COVID-19

California's Fireworks Law, passed in 1938, established the Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) as the only fireworks classification authority in California. Fireworks are classified through laboratory analysis, field examinations and test firing of items. As part of the program, SFM requires the licensing of all pyrotechnic operators, fireworks manufacturers, importer-exporters, wholesalers, retailers, and public display companies. Pyrotechnic operators who discharge fireworks at public displays or launch high powered and experimental rockets, must also pass a written examination and provide proof of experience.

 About Us

 Boards & Committees

The State's Explosives Law authorizes the California State Fire Marshal to adopt regulations for the safe use, handling, storage and transportation of explosives. Under those regulations local law enforcement agencies track the location of storage magazines within their jurisdictions through a permit process. Special exemptions have been provided within the regulations to allow for limited possession and storage of some explosives, such as black powder, used by hunters and the sporting community.

 Divisions

 Search

Latest FIREWORKS Information Bulletins



The Office of the State Fire Marshal has released four information bulletins concerning fireworks laws, violations, and safety. Click on the links below for more information.

[Updated Seized Fireworks Reporting And Disposal Process \(PDF\)](#)

[Sales of Consumer Fireworks on Craigslist \(PDF\)](#)

[Health and Safety Code Fireworks Violations](#)

[Public Education Website](#)

[Public Education Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

[Public Education Fact Sheet \(Español\) \(PDF\)](#)

Laws and Regulations:

[Laws and Regulations for Transportation, Use and Storage of Fireworks in California \(PDF\)](#)

[Administrative Model Ordinance \(PDF\)](#)

[New Information Bulletin on Snap Caps and Party Poppers \(PDF\)](#)

[Classification of Snap Caps and Party Poppers \(PDF\)](#)

Fireworks Enforcement:

[Fireworks Violations \(2008 cheat sheet update\) \(PDF\)](#)

[Safe & Sane Fireworks Book \(PDF\)](#)

[Fireworks Seizure Form \(PDF\)](#)

[Safe and Sane Fireworks Seal \(PDF\)](#)

[Sales of Consumer Fireworks on the Internet \(PDF\)](#)

[Seized Fireworks Updated Instructions \(PDF\)](#)

For issues regarding Fireworks Disposal and Enforcement, please contact: FWX@fire.ca.gov

Permits - Fireworks Display:

[Revised Public Display Permit Process \(PDF\)](#)

[Public Fireworks Display Permit Application \(PDF\)](#)

[Inspection Check List for Outdoor Fireworks Display \(PDF\)](#)

Applications:

[Exam Policy](#)

[Application for Duplicate License](#)

[Application for Pyrotechnic License \(Company\)](#)

[Application for Pyrotechnic Operator](#)

[Flame Throwing Device Permit Application](#)

[Flame Throwing Device Self-Certification Form](#)

[Live Scan Form](#)

[Reference Letter \(For persons requested to certify an examinee's experience and character\)](#)

[Consumer Fireworks Classification Application](#)

Reports/Information:

[Pre-Display Report \(PDF\)](#)

[Post-Display Report \(PDF\)](#)

[Pyrotechnic Operator Log Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

[Fireworks Statistics \(CAIRS\)](#)

[Valid Operators List \(PDF\)](#)

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