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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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**RELEASE  
DATE:**  
March 16, 2023

### **Nearly 20,000 Pounds of Illegal Fireworks Stopped from Entering California** *California has zero tolerance for the sale and use of illegal fireworks.*

**Sacramento** – Last week, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal (CAL FIRE – OSFM) seized a large moving truck filled with illegal fireworks attempting to enter California in Mono County, after being spotted by an employee at the agricultural inspection station. On March 9, 2023, CAL FIRE – OSFM Investigators, with the assistance of CAL FIRE Prevention Officers and Mono County Sheriff’s Office, arrested a subject for illegally transporting approximately 20,000 pounds of dangerous fireworks into California. The suspect, whose identity is being withheld pending further investigation, was arrested for felony violations.

“The use of illegal fireworks continuously poses a major threat that results in firefighters responding to hundreds of fires and medical emergencies every year,” said Acting State Fire Marshal Daniel Berlant. “It is important to know the law. California has zero tolerance for the sale and use of illegal fireworks.”

It is illegal to sell, transport, or use fireworks that do not carry the “Safe and Sane” seal, as well as possess or use fireworks in a community where they are not permitted. To bring fireworks into California, a CAL FIRE – OSFM Importer License is required, and all fireworks imported into California must file a notice with CAL FIRE – OSFM prior to importation. If convicted, a violator could be fined up to \$50,000, as well as be sentenced to jail for up to one year. Parents are liable for any damage or injuries caused by their children using fireworks. CAL FIRE – OSFM requires the licensing of all pyrotechnic operators, fireworks manufacturers, importer-exporters, wholesalers, retailers, and public display companies.

Dangerous fireworks are illegal in California because each year serious injuries and millions of dollars in property loss occur from wildfires sparked by fireworks. Check with your local jurisdiction for the use of safe and sane fireworks. Large grass crops and dry vegetation increase the threat for devastating fires throughout all of California. Remember fireworks start fires. If you have tips or information regarding subjects illegally transporting large amounts of fireworks into the State of California, please email [arsonbomb@fire.ca.gov](mailto:arsonbomb@fire.ca.gov).

For more information on the CAL FIRE – OSFM Fireworks program, visit [osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/fire-engineering-and-investigations/fireworks/](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/fire-engineering-and-investigations/fireworks/).

View CAL FIRE fireworks safety information at [www.readyforwildfire.org/more/fireworks-safety/](http://www.readyforwildfire.org/more/fireworks-safety/).

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