



# Fire Engineering & Investigations

The CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Fire Engineering and Investigations Division administers licensing programs and performs engineering functions affecting fire protection related consumer services and product evaluation, approval, and listing.

**Licensing and Certifications:** The Division has the overall responsibility to administer licensing programs which approve, certify, and list fire safety products for the OSFM. These programs include the Building Materials Listing, Fireworks, Vapor Recovery, and Flame-Retardant Programs all of which deal with the approval of products used throughout California. The Division also administers licensing companies and technicians for the Fire Extinguisher, Automatic Extinguishing System, Pyrotechnic, Motion Picture Film, and Flame-Retardant Programs.

**Arson and Bomb Unit:** The Arson and Bomb Unit conducts detailed and complex investigations of explosions, fires, program fraud and counterterrorism. Under the Arson and Bomb Unit is the Canine Unit. The Canine Unit is an essential tool for our State law enforcement officers, in addition to local, State, and federal public safety partners across California.

**Illegal Fireworks:** Under state law, CAL FIRE - OSFM is responsible for the management and disposal of seized dangerous and illegal fireworks. Fireworks may be declared illegal by federal, state, or local governments. State law allows only certain fireworks—those designated as “safe and sane” by the OSFM—to be sold in California. Many local jurisdictions in California choose to ban the sale or use of all fireworks within their borders. Consequently, illegal fireworks seized by law enforcement agencies include those that are illegally made in or transported into the U.S., as well as fireworks that are legally purchased in one jurisdiction and brought into another jurisdiction where they are illegal. As a result, the use and sale of illegal fireworks continues to rise in California creating significant environmental and fire hazards. Each year the State seizes on average over 220,000 pounds of fireworks needing to be disposed.

## More Information:

[osfm.fire.ca.gov](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov)

