



# CAL FIRE - OSFM

## Fire Engineering & Investigations

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

The Fire Engineering and Investigations Division encompasses the following program areas:

- *Licensing & 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, Fire Safe Cigarette and Flame Retardant Programs all of which deal with the approval of products used throughout California. The Division also administers business licensing and technician certification for the Fire Extinguisher, Automatic Extinguishing System, Pyrotechnic, Motion Picture Film, and Flame Retardant Programs. The program requires staff with academic training in fire protection engineering and other disciplines, as well as technical expertise in laboratory testing procedures. The proper application of civil, mechanical, electrical, chemical, and industrial engineering techniques can reduce the number of ignitions caused by hazardous conditions or operations.
- *Arson and Bomb Unit:* This Section of the Division oversees and manages the Arson & Bomb Unit and the Investigations Unit which together provide investigative and law enforcement capabilities for the OSFM. Detectives in the Arson & Bomb and Investigations Units conduct detailed and complex investigations of explosions, fires, program fraud and counterterrorism.
- *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.

