

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT: CAL FIRE PIO
(916) 651-3473
Calfire.dutypio@fire.ca.gov

RELEASE DATE: 6/25/2024

Gardena Police Department and CAL FIRE Seize Over 120,000 Pounds from Single Illegal Fireworks Operation

Gardena, CA - CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Arson and Bomb Unit, in collaboration with Gardena Police Department announce the seizure of over 120,000 pounds of illegal fireworks discovered within the South Bay region of Los Angeles County.

Several arrests occurred in the early morning hours Saturday, leading to one of the single largest illegal fireworks seizures discovered in the State. The CAL FIRE - OSFM Arson and Bomb Unit responded to assist the local agency with seizing and processing the extraordinary amount of illegal fireworks discovered.

The seizure included illegal dangerous and public display fireworks up to eight inches in diameter and over 2,000 illegal destructive devices and 10 pounds of bulk homemade explosives.

The CAL FIRE - OSFM Arson and Bomb Unit would like to commend the ongoing efforts of the Gardena Police Department to help curb the use and sales of illegal fireworks, protecting the public from the hazards they present. Additionally, we would like to thank the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Specialized Enforcement Division, San Bernardino County Fire Department, Riverside Police Department Technical Services Unit, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). The collaborative efforts of all agencies involved demonstrate their ongoing commitment to protecting our communities.

Additional information is not available, as this is a pending criminal investigation.

CAL FIRE would like to remind everyone that 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. If convicted, a violator could be fined up to \$50,000, as well as be sent to jail for up to one year.

If you have information related to this case, don't hesitate to contact the CAL FIRE - OSFM Arson and Bomb Unit at arsonbomb@fire.ca.gov.

###