



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**  
**Office of the State Fire Marshal**  
Fireworks Program [fwx@fire.ca.gov](mailto:fwx@fire.ca.gov)

**HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE FIREWORKS VIOLATIONS**  
**LICENSE PERMITS**

- 12670 - Advertise the sale of fireworks without a license
- 12685 - Conduct public fireworks display without a permit
- 12686 - Use special effects fireworks without a pyrotechnic license
- 12687 - Sell, give, transfer, or deliver special effects fireworks without a pyrotechnic license
- 12688 - Advertise to sell any class of pyrotechnics without a license or permit  
(Dangerous, Safe and Sane, Agricultural/Wildlife, Model-rocket engines)
- 12690 - Perform or act with expired fireworks license or permit

**SALE OF FIREWORKS**

- 12675 - Failure to record on bill of lading or manifest required fireworks license numbers
- 12671 - Sell, offer for sale, possess, store, discharge, use, or transport fireworks not registered by the State Fire Marshal

**STORAGE**

- 12673 - Store fireworks without a permit
- 12674 - Store or possess fireworks, which a fireworks license is required after license is revoked
- 12679 - Sell, use, store fireworks within 100 feet of where gasoline or other flammable liquids are stored or dispensed
- 12682 - Allow or permit a fire nuisance where fireworks are sold, manufactured, assembled, packages, discharged, stored, or distributed

**DANGEROUS FIREWORKS**

- 12676 - Sell, transfer, give, or otherwise convey title of dangerous fireworks unless receiver has a valid permit
- 12677 - Posses dangerous fireworks without a permit
- 12680 - Place, throw, ignite, or discharge dangerous fireworks at a person or crowd where injury can occur or creating chaos, fear, or panic
- 12689a - Sell, give, or deliver dangerous fireworks to anyone under 18

**EMERGENCY SIGNALING DEVICE**

- 12683- Sell, use discharge an unregistered emergency signaling device
- 12684- Use emergency signal device for other than intended purpose

**AGRICULTURAL AND WILDLIFE FIREWORKS**

- 12678 - Use agricultural or wildlife fireworks without permit

**SAFE AND SANE FIREWORKS**

- 12672 - Sell Safe and Sane Fireworks other than from noon June 28 - noon July 6
- 12681 - Sell or transfer Safe and Sane Fireworks at other than fixed place of business
- 12689b - Sell, give, or deliver Safe and Sane Fireworks to anyone under 16 years of age (Illegal)



**IF AN ITEM DOES NOT BEAR THIS SEAL,  
IT IS ILLEGAL!**

TYPE OF FIREWORK  
CSFM REGISTRATION

# HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE FIREWORKS

## POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS FIREWORKS - PENALTIES

**12700 H&S** – (a) Except as provided in Section 12702 and subdivision (b), any person who violates any provision of this part, or any regulation issued pursuant to this part, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the county jail for not exceeding 1 year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(b) A person who violates any provision of this part or any regulations issued pursuant to this part, by possessing dangerous fireworks shall be subject to the following:

(1) A person who possesses a gross weight, including packaging, of less than 25 pounds of unaltered dangerous fireworks as defined in Section 12505, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) or more than one thousand dollars (\$1000), or by imprisonment in the county jail for not exceeding one year, or both that fine and imprisonment. Upon a second or subsequent conviction, a person shall be punished by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1000) or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one-year or by both that fine and imprisonment. (1)

(2) A person who possesses a gross weight, including packaging, of not less than 25 pounds or more than 100 pounds of unaltered dangerous fireworks, as defined in Section 12505, is guilty of a public offense, and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or by fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment

(3) A person who possesses a gross weight, including packaging of not less than 100 pounds or more than 5000 pounds of unaltered dangerous fireworks, as defined in Section 12505, is guilty of a public offense, and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison or the county jail for not more than one year or by a fine of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5000) or more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment

(4) A person who possesses a gross weight, including packaging, of more than 5,000 pounds of unaltered dangerous fireworks, as defined in Section 12505, is guilty of a public offense, and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison or the county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

**12702a H&S** - Any person who violates this part by selling, giving, or delivering any dangerous fireworks to any person under 18 years of age is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon a first conviction shall be punished as prescribed in subdivision (b) of Section 12700

**12702b H&S** - Upon a second or subsequent conviction of the offense, the person shall be punished by an additional fine of five thousand dollars (\$5000), or by imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year or by both that fine and imprisonment. The person shall not be granted probation and the execution of the sentence imposed upon the person shall not be suspended by the court.

## FIREWORKS ARE EXCLUDED FROM EXPLOSIVES LAW

**12540 H&S** - Items classified as FIREWORKS are generally excluded from explosives law. Exception: Large firecracker items such as; M -80, M -100, M -1000, Silver Salute, Brown Bomber, 1/4 stick, 1/2 stick, full stick, etc., are considered explosives. Not legal anywhere in the U.S.

## CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SEC. 980(F)(1)

The term "firecracker" means a device consisting of an explosive pyrotechnic in an amount not to exceed 50 milligrams (.772 grains) in weight in a fused container whose primary function is to produce an audible effect. All firecrackers are classified as "dangerous fireworks". Devices similar in construction to "firecrackers" which exceed .772 grains shall be considered as EXPLOSIVES in accordance with Health & Safety Code 12000, et seq.

## OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS

**12303 H&S** - Possession of Explosives without valid permit

**12305 H&S** - Illegal Possession of Explosives

**16460 PC** - Destructive device defined

**16510 PC** - Explosive defined

**18720-18780 PC** - Destructive Device Violations

**452 PC** - Reckless Burning

**EXPLOSIVES**- When explosives are modified, placed in a pipe or container, used for destruction of property, or to terrify or injure individuals, the charge falls under Penal Code 18720, destructive device. If caught and convicted there is a mandatory jail time - no probation may be granted for conviction.

(1) Violations for possession/use of less than 25 pounds may be handled as a violation of CA H&S Code § 12700(b) 1 or in accordance with local administrative fine ordinance if adopted