

Fireworks Collection

Identifying fireworks on the SFM
banned list



What CAL FIRE (CZU) will accept for the OSFM is different from what is legal or illegal

California has two classifications of fireworks - “Safe and Sane” and “Dangerous”. Safe and Sane fireworks are the only legal fireworks to transport, use or possess in California. Safe and Sane fireworks can only be sold by a licensed retailer. Only 296 municipalities allow the sale and/or use of Safe and Sane. All other fireworks that do not bear the Safe and Sane seal are considered illegal fireworks or Dangerous fireworks. CAL FIRE (CZU) will collect Safe and Sane fireworks and specific Dangerous fireworks.

Safe and Sane Permitted Areas

San Mateo

- Pacifica
- San Bruno

Santa Cruz

- Watsonville
- Capitola

Safe and Sane Fireworks



- Only licensed retailers can sell and they can only do so from June 28th to July 6th.
- If the fireworks do not display the seal, they are illegal.
- Fireworks undergo extensive testing and must meet the most stringent construction, performance, labeling and safety requirements.

Commonly: State-Approved Fireworks consist of primarily static ground-based fountains, some handheld items, a few spinners and novelty items

Consumer Fireworks – 1.4G

“Dangerous” Fireworks

1.4G Fireworks

1.4G Explosives. Consumer fireworks intended for use by the general public. Generally, comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations set forth by the DOT.

Fireworks “Cake”

Fireworks Box with 1.4G Placarding

If collected and contents are unused and whole, this package can be collected by CAL FIRE as is.



Commonly: Skyrockets, bottle rockets, roman candles, oversized sparklers or fireworks that explode, go up into the air, move on the ground.

Display Fireworks – 1.3G

“Dangerous Fireworks”



Mortar Tubes - usually does not contain explosives. Without explosives, these are cardboard trash.



1.3G Explosives

Professional Display fireworks. Classification given to large fireworks that you see at pyrotechnic shows. Generally, requires a pyrotechnic permit or license. Generally, mortar style fireworks. Some 1.3G fireworks may resemble 1.4G fireworks but have a larger powder content.



Looks like 1.4G fireworks, but contains more flash powder



Other Illegal Fireworks

Improvised Explosives



Homemade explosives. Pipe Bombs.—tightly sealed section of pipe that is filled with an explosive material. Due to the confinement, a low amount of explosives can cause a relatively large explosion.

Improvised Explosives



Tennis Ball Bomb. Tennis ball filled with combustibles or pyrotechnic materials with a fuse. Produces a loud explosion.

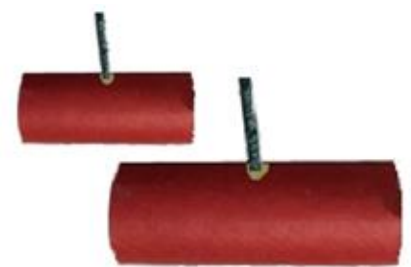
Altered Fireworks

Sparklers are bound together in electrical duct tape to contain the ignition of the sparkers.



“M” Series Fireworks

Also called Salutes. Explosive. Mass produced or homemade. M-80 is generally 1.5”. Larger “M” series are M-100 and M-1000. The larger the number the larger the size and powder content.



Triangle Fireworks

Also called Polumna Firecrackers. Explosive.



Pyrotechnic Powders

CAL FIRE will not accept any powder. Composition of the powder cannot be determined without lab testing

Black Powder

Identified by grade and how fine the powder is. Sporting Grade (G) is coarser. Blasting Grade (A) is fine.



Flash Powder

Oxidizer and metallic fuel (potassium, magnesium or aluminum). Sensitive to shock, friction or electrostatic discharge.



Marine/Signal/Road Flares and Fusees



**Marine
Flare**

Signal Flare

Aerial Flare

Fusee

Road Flare

Agricultural and Wildlife Explosives



Fired explosive that are manufactured to scare wildlife, functioning as animal or pest control. AKA Bird Bombs, Shell Crackers, etc.

And No....



Matches



Lighters



Torches



Electric Match



Hobby Cord or Fuse





FIREWORK VIOLATIONS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
(REV 6-22)

PENALTIES

12700-(a) Except as provided in Section 12702 and subdivision (b), a person who violates any provision of this part, or any regulations 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) or more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail for not exceeding one year, or by both that 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 (\$1,000), 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 (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(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 a county jail for not more than one year, or by a 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 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 pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code or a county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) 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 pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code, or a 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.

(c) Subdivision (b) shall not apply to a person who holds and is operating within the scope of a valid license as described in Section 12516 or valid permit as described in Section 12522.

12702-Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 12700:

(a) A 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.

(b) Upon a second or subsequent conviction of the offense, the person shall be punished by an additional fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by imprisonment in a 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.

CCR Title 19, Div 1, Ch 6, Article 2 DEFINITIONS:

(1) Firecracker. A device containing explosive pyrotechnic composition in an amount not to exceed 50 milligrams (.772 grains) in total pyrotechnic weight, in a fused container whose primary function is to produce an audible effect.

Note: All firecrackers are classified as "dangerous fireworks", and pyrotechnic devices similar in construction to a "firecracker" which exceed the specified weight shall be designated explosives in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 12000.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE FIREWORK 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
- 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 #
- 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 has been revoked
- 12670-**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, packaged, 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 with 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
- 12689(a)-**Sell, give, or deliver dangerous fireworks to anyone under 18

EMERGENCY SIGNALING DEVICE

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

SAFE AND SANE FIREWORKS

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

LOCAL LAWS

Santa Cruz County Municipal Code
7.92.5601.1.3 – Possession, use, manufacture, storage, sale, handling, and use of fireworks are prohibited

San Mateo County Municipal Code
5.28.030(b) - Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess, store, to offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail or use or explode any fireworks

California State Parks
14 CCR 4314(a) – No person shall possess, discharge, set off, or cause to be discharged, in or into any portion of a unit any firecrackers, torpedoes, rockets, fireworks, explosives, or substances harmful to the life or safety of persons

OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS

- HSC 12303-** Possession of explosives without valid permit
- HSC 12305-** Illegal Possession of explosives
- PEN 16460-** Destructive device defines
- PEN 16520-** Explosive defined
- PEN 18720 through 18780-** Destructive device violations

IF AN ITEM DOES NOT BEAR THIS SEAL, IT IS AN ILLEGAL/ DANGEROUS FIREWORK





(U//FOUO) Fireworks and Improvised Explosive Devices Using Fireworks Material Very Likely an Ongoing Threat to Public Safety Personnel

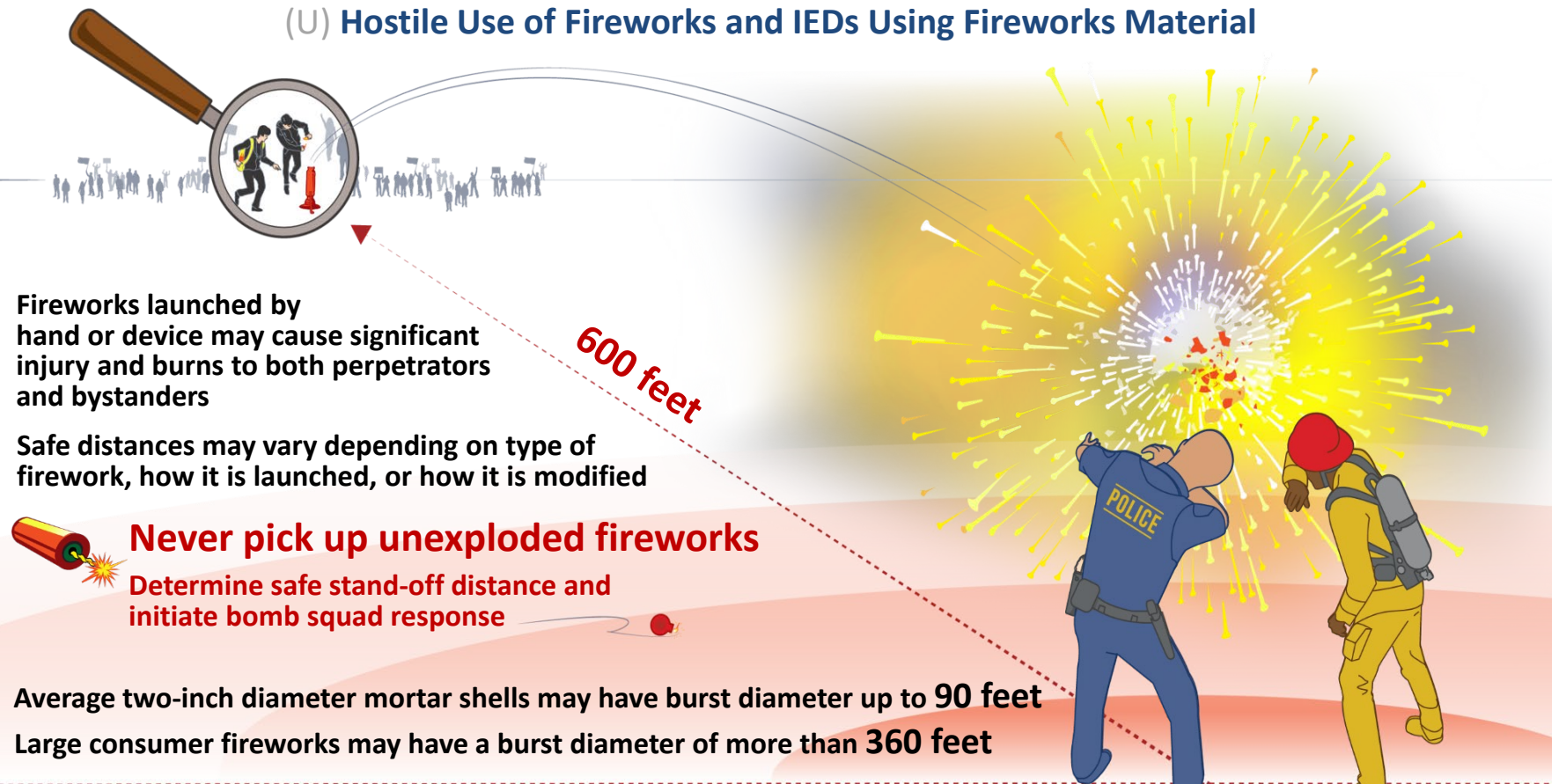
(U//FOUO) We assess domestic violent extremists likely will use readily accessible fireworks and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) sourced from fireworks material at civil unrest and attack events. Mortar launched fireworks enable expanded attack range and impact area while being more effective in causing injuries to public safety personnel, perpetrators, and bystanders.

(U//FOUO) Scope Note: This product provides situational awareness of tactics, techniques, and procedures observed in the United States from launching fireworks and/or manufacturing IEDs sourced from fireworks material and does not encompass every known IED or circumstance.

(U) Background

- Observed use of fireworks and IEDs has increased in the US through 2020—particularly at civil unrest events.
- On 22 May 2021, attendees at a large social media-driven event in Huntington Beach, California threw fireworks into crowds and at law enforcement.
- On 7 July 2020, members of a large crowd in Texas launched a large firework at a patrol vehicle, resulting in serious burns to the officer.
- On 6 July 2020, members of a crowd of approximately 40 people in Tennessee launched fireworks at first responders, injuring a firefighter.
- Tests conducted by the National Counterterrorism Center confirmed that IEDs made from fireworks material can deliver bodily harm or even death to public safety personnel, perpetrators, and bystanders.
- International incidents involving use of illegal fireworks has resulted in the melting or burning of law enforcements' personal protective equipment (PPE).

(U) Hostile Use of Fireworks and IEDs Using Fireworks Material



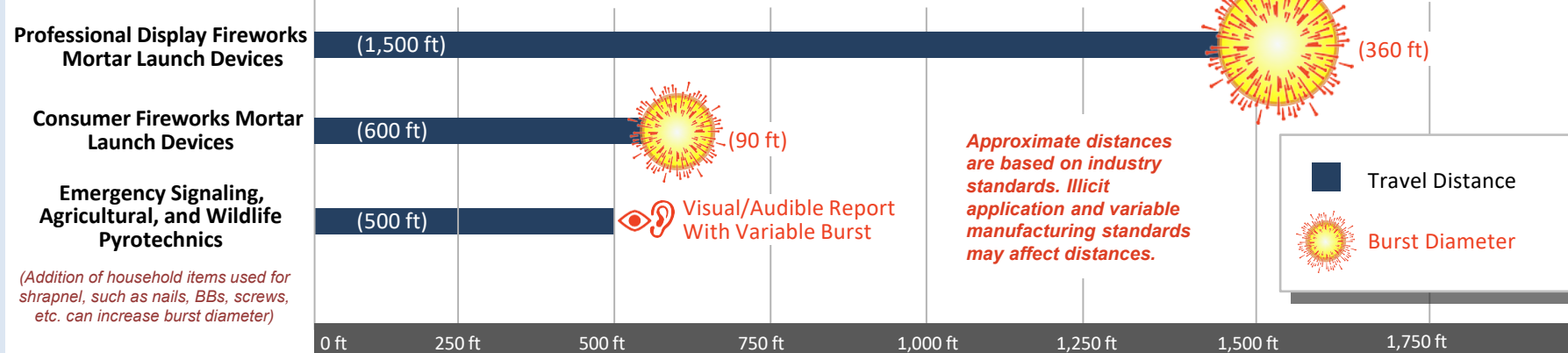
(U) Unexploded Ordnance

- Never pick up or approach unexploded ordnance.
- Firework charges can have multiple fuses, both external and internal.
- An external fuse may appear unlit as an internal fuse in the same device burns toward detonation of the payload charge.

(U) Considerations

- Follow agency standard operating procedures/guidelines (SOP/SOG) regarding IED and explosive devices.
- Follow all SOP/SOG and DHS-DOJ Bomb Threat Stand-Off distances for unexploded ordnance.
- Establish unified command with all response agencies.
- Initiate bomb squad response for unexploded devices.
- Increased safety zones for personnel.
- Familiarize personnel with firework types and associated burst zones.
- Modifying consumer fireworks (under three inches in diameter) or fireworks using extended launch tubes may increase maximum expected travel distance.
- Shrapnel can travel at 75% of the speed of the initial explosion. In a device that explodes at 2,000 ft/sec, BB's, nails, or other enhancements affixed to the exterior of the device can achieve speeds of 1,500 ft/sec.
- Professional display fireworks mortar launch devices may travel greater than 1,500 feet.

(U) Average Travel and Burst Diameter, By Device Type



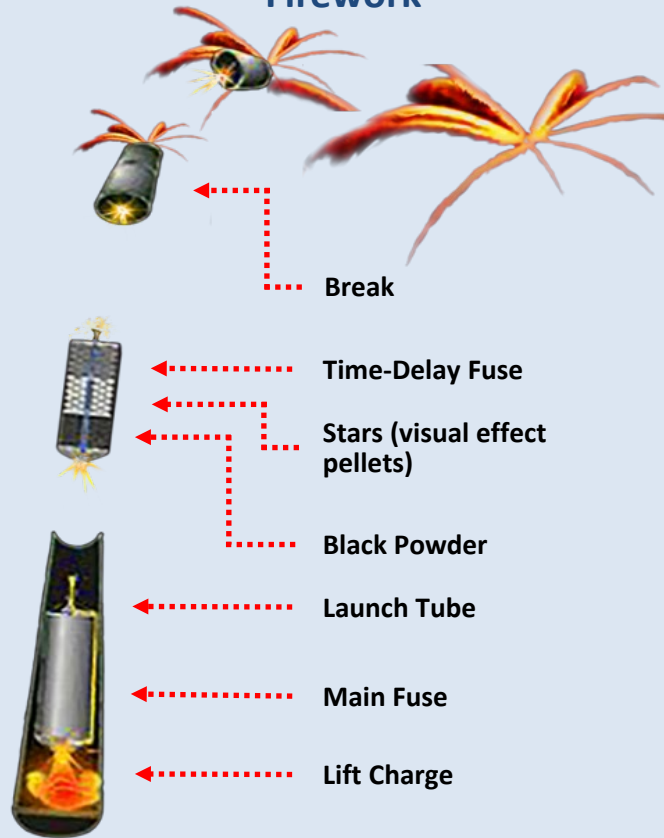


CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

JOINT STANDALONE GRAPHIC | JUNE 2021

THE STANDALONE GRAPHIC PROVIDES A VISUAL ANALYSIS OF INTELLIGENCE ISSUES.

(U) Parts of a Mortar Launched Firework



(U/FOUO) Common Pyrotechnics, Consumer, and Professional Display Fireworks



Professional Display Fireworks Mortar Launch Devices may reach three feet or more in height. Display mortar shells may be four inches to over 12 inches in diameter and may contain multiple burst charges. Display mortar shells exceed the limits of explosive materials for classification as consumer fireworks, traveling further distances and creating larger burst diameters.



Consumer Fireworks Mortar Launch Devices can be preloaded or reloadable single/multi shot devices, may be one to two feet high, may launch shells 600 or more feet, typically launch 3/4-to-three-inch mortar shells with a 90-foot or more burst diameter, with one to five separate burst charges. Multi-shot cake devices come preloaded and may launch from six to more than 250 mortar shells with a single initiation of the device.



Emergency Signaling, Agricultural, and Wildlife Pyrotechnics may include single or multi-shot handheld launchers/hand thrown devices with loud audible explosion and visual flashes used for disbursement purposes or emergency signaling. The projectile may travel more than 500 feet, burn hotter than 2,600 degrees Fahrenheit, and can be difficult to extinguish.



Rockets, Mortars, and Projectiles may be cylindrical, five to six inches long, self-propelled, and typically require a launching device but may be launched by hand. Like professional display fireworks, these may contain multiple burst charges.

(U) Considerations (Cont.)

- PPE may not protect against fireworks and their high heat chemical components.
- Horizontally launched fireworks and their debris pose a significant fire hazard.
- Evaluate public safety personnel for concussion and/or traumatic brain injury (TBI) with a medical surveillance program.
- Medical records, photographs, and video can play an important role in an investigation.
- Consider suspects with burns to hands, feet, and legs; 57% of firework injuries are burns.
- Attempt to recover spent mortar tubes for forensic evidence; fingerprints left on plastic mortar tubes and reoccurring branded products could assist in investigation.
- Handling, transport, and storage of unexploded evidence should be first evaluated by bomb squad personnel for safety considerations.

(U//FOUO) Resource Links

- [Laws and Regulations For Transportation, Use, and Storage of Fireworks In California](#)
- [CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal Fireworks Program](#)
- [DHS-DOJ Bomb Threat Stand-Off Card](#)
- [JCAT First Responder's Toolbox – IED Manufacture Indicators](#) (More resources included)
- [CISA Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program \(BMAP\)](#)
- [ATF Fireworks Webpage](#)
- Email questions to State Fireworks Program: fwx@fire.ca.gov

(U/FOUO) Improvised Explosive Devices Using Fireworks Material



Pressure Cookers can be filled with fireworks and fragmentation material, creating a mass casualty capable IED. Preferred evacuation distance is 1,200 feet or more. The 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing illustrates the catastrophic impact of such a device.



Pipe Bombs can be made from fireworks material, to explode or launch and then explode, and may have fragmentation material, such as nails and shrapnel for added lethality. Mandatory evacuation distance is a minimum of 70 feet, with a preferred evacuation distance of 1,200 feet or more.

(U) Cross-Section of Large Consumer Firework Charge

