
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Gov. Schwarzenegger Urges Safe Firework Celebrations This July Fourth in New Public Service Announcements

Sacramento – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger today unveiled two new public service announcements that underscore the danger of illegal fireworks and encourage safe festivities this holiday weekend.

"As California copes with its third year of drought and continuing dry conditions, it is important that all Californians celebrate the spirit of America responsibly and safely," said Gov. Schwarzenegger. "Each of us can do our part to help our firefighters protect lives, communities and natural resources."

The two 30-second public service announcements begin airing next week on network-affiliated and independent television stations throughout California. In addition, TNT Fireworks has purchased additional spots on cable systems throughout California where the announcements will run for a seven-day period leading up to July 4.

In preparation of the holiday weekend, CAL FIRE is working closely with local law enforcement and firefighting agencies to prosecute those in possession of illegal fireworks.

Under California law, illegal fireworks include sky rockets, bottle rockets, roman candles, aerial shells, firecrackers and other miscellaneous types that explode, go up in the air, or move about the ground in an uncontrollable fashion. Legal fireworks must be approved by the State Fire Marshal and have the "Safe and Sane" seal on them.

SB 839 (Calderon), signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger in 2007, took effect Jan. 1, 2008 and established harsher penalties for those who buy and sell illegal fireworks. Those convicted could be fined up to \$50,000 and/or sent to prison or jail for up to one year.

For more information about safe fireworks use, visit www.fire.ca.gov.

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