



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Los Angeles Field Division

Contact: S/A Susan K. Raichel, ATF PIO
Office: (213) 534-2411
Cellular: (213) 925-4547

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ATF PROMOTES A SAFE FOURTH OF JULY

LOS ANGELES – Special Agent in Charge John A. Torres of the Los Angeles Field Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), recommended today that Southern Californians exercise caution when dealing with fireworks of all types.

As the Fourth of July approaches, ATF reminds the public to make it safe for everyone by keeping in mind fireworks safety. The best way that parents can keep the holiday safe is by supervising children and by following the product safety instructions. Each year children are severely injured by the mishandling of fireworks. Parents need to know illegal fireworks meet no safety standards and can be deadly in the hands of children.

“ATF wants to ensure your Fourth of July holiday celebration is done in a safe environment that is free of illegal fireworks that could severely injure someone,” Torres said. “Additionally, with our drought conditions, high temperatures and high wind warnings, we must all be extra careful during our holiday celebration.”

Federally banned fireworks include M-80’s, M-100s, Silver Salutes and Cherry Bombs. Mail-order kits designed to build these fireworks are also banned. The manufacture and possession of these illegal explosive devices can result in felony and misdemeanor charges.

In Des Moines, Iowa, an investigation is ongoing into the illegal sale of M-80 devices, categorized as explosives by ATF. Approximately 1,000 of these illegal devices were not manufactured properly, causing explosive flash powder to leak out. The devices are tan cardboard tubes (3” in length and 7/8” diameter) with a red, white and blue hobby fuse attached in the center of the tube. Investigators warn flash powder is extremely sensitive to shock, friction, heat, vibration or flame contact.

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Under the Safe Explosives Act of 2003, any person who wishes to transport, ship, cause to be transported, or receive explosive materials in either interstate or intrastate must first obtain a federal permit issued by ATF. The legislation also requires that all applicants for explosives licenses and permits submit photographs and fingerprints and undergo a background check. Background checks are also required for all employees (i.e. warehousemen and drivers) of businesses that use explosives to reduce the risk that prohibited persons will gain access to explosives.

ATF is the federal law enforcement agency charged with enforcing federal explosives laws. ATF actively works with other federal, state and local agencies to prevent the manufacture and trafficking of illegal fireworks.

The public is urged to report illegal fireworks sales and use by calling the ATF hotline at **1-888-ATF-BOMB (888-283-2662)**.

For more information on ATF and its programs, visit www.atf.gov.

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