

## **2024 Fireworks Information Monterey County and Surrounding Areas**

The following information concerns the sale and use of fireworks in Monterey County and the surrounding areas. This information should only be considered as a guideline. Always check with the local fire department or governmental agency for specific regulations pertaining to the sale and use of “safe and sane” fireworks.

### **AREAS IN MONTEREY, SANTA CRUZ, SAN BENITO, SANTA CLARA, and SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES WHERE STATE OF CALIFORNIA APPROVED “SAFE and SANE” FIREWORKS ARE ALLOWED FOR SALE AND USE:**

Seaside	Marina	Greenfield	Salinas
Soledad	Gonzales	King City	San Juan Bautista
Hollister	Watsonville	Gilroy	San Benito County
Arroyo Grande	Grover Beach	Oceano	San Miguel
Templeton			

“Safe and sane” fireworks are only allowed in the local cities or communities listed above. Each city or community may have different regulations concerning the sales and use of fireworks. Always check with the local fire department or city government before using any type of fireworks. As of February 2024, there are 296 cities and communities in California that allow the sale and use of safe and sane fireworks. Find a list of all 296 cities and communities here:

<https://ca-fireworks.presskit247.com/content/content-article.asp?ArticleID=508>

### **AREAS WHERE ALL TYPES OF FIREWORKS ARE PROHIBITED:**

Fireworks of any type are **NOT ALLOWED** in any area not listed above within Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Santa Clara, and San Luis Obispo Counties. This includes all unincorporated areas, special districts, coastal beaches, federal, state and county parks, and federal and state property including military installations. Fireworks of any type are **NOT ALLOWED** on any beach area in Monterey County.

### **REGULATIONS CONCERNING “SAFE and SANE” FIREWORKS:**

Only fireworks certified as “**safe and sane**” by the State Fire Marshal’s Office are allowed for sale and use in approved areas. An approved “**safe and sane**” firework will display the State Fire Marshal’s Seal on the item or packaging. All other fireworks are listed as “Dangerous” by the California Health and Safety Code and are illegal in the entire State of California.



By California State law, “safe and sane” fireworks can only be sold by a California non-profit organization and must be sold from a free-standing temporary fireworks booth. Fireworks are not allowed to be sold by a business, store, or from inside a building. The fireworks retailer must have a license from the State Fire Marshal’s Office and a permit for such sales from the local governmental jurisdiction or fire agency where the fireworks are being sold. For those areas that allow the sale of “safe and sane” fireworks, fireworks may only be sold and used from **twelve noon on June 28<sup>th</sup> until twelve noon on July 6<sup>th</sup>.**

State law prohibits the sale of fireworks to persons less than sixteen years of age. Some local areas may have more restrictive age limits. Always check with your local fire agency for the current regulations on the sale and use of fireworks in your area.

Cities and local jurisdictions may impose more restrictive regulations than State law but may not adopt less restrictive regulations than State law.

### **WHEN USING “SAFE AND SANE” FIREWORKS, ALWAYS FOLLOW THESE IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS:**

1. Always use fireworks under adult supervision.
2. Always follow the directions printed on the firework packaging.
3. Never use fireworks in or around dry grass or areas that are likely to catch fire.
4. After fireworks has been used, soak in water before discarding.
5. Never throw fireworks in the air or at a person.
6. Never take fireworks apart or experiment with fireworks.
7. Light only one at a time and stay away when fireworks are lit.
8. Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
9. Fireworks are never to be used indoors.
10. Never try to re-light or “fix” a firework.
11. Always keep at a safe distance.
12. Always have a garden hose and a bucket of water on hand when using fireworks.
13. Never light a firework with a flare or use another firework for lighting.

## **REGULATIONS CONCERNING “DANGEROUS” FIREWORKS THAT ARE ILLEGAL IN CALIFORNIA:**

Per the California Health and Safety Code, any person in possession of a classified “**Dangerous**” firework is in violation of the law and subject to arrest, fines, or imprisonment.

Generally, fireworks classified as “**Dangerous**” in the California Health and Safety Code is any firework that either:

- Explodes
- Rises or flies into the air
- Moves across the ground

“Dangerous” fireworks may also:

- ✓ Discharge flaming balls that can explode
- ✓ Contain poisonous chemicals
- ✓ Cause serious personal injuries
- ✓ Malfunction without warning
- ✓ Travel great distances
- ✓ Cause fires, or property damage

## **DANGEROUS FIREWORKS PENALTIES:**

Under Section 12700 of the California Health and Safety Code, any person that violates any provision of the State Fireworks Law or Regulations, or is in possession of less than 25 pounds gross weight of dangerous fireworks is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1000.00, or by imprisonment in the County Jail for up to one year, or both a fine and imprisonment.

For possession between 25 to 100 pounds, a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000 shall be imposed or imprisonment in a County Jail for up to one year, or both a fine and imprisonment.

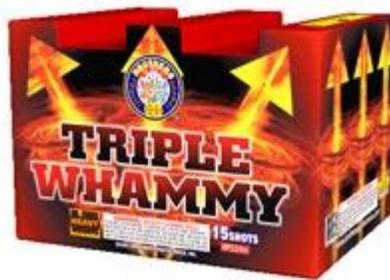
For possession between 100 and 5,000 pounds of dangerous fireworks, fines range between \$5,000 and \$10,000 in addition to possible imprisonment in state prison or a County Jail for up to one year, or both a fine and imprisonment.

For possession of over 5,000 pounds of dangerous fireworks, fines range between \$10,000 and \$50,000 in addition to possible imprisonment in state prison or a County Jail for up to one year, or both a fine and imprisonment.

A person possessing or using certain types of fireworks such as an M-80, M-100, or M-1000, or using fireworks to make explosive devices may be charged with a felony.

- Local jurisdictions may have administrative regulations that allow for much higher penalties and fines.

## Examples of Dangerous and Illegal Fireworks in California:



### PRODUCT PACKAGING:

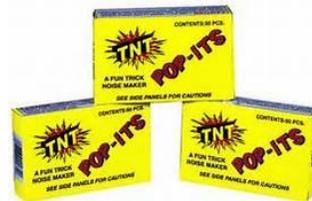
Since product packaging for fireworks is very similar between “safe and sane” fireworks and fireworks listed as “Dangerous” in California, always ensure that the firework has the official State of California “safe and sane” seal for use where allowed in California.

## **SALES OF FIREWORKS ON THE INTERNET OR CRAIGSLIST:**

Sales of fireworks over the Internet to California residents is prohibited and a violation of Section 12560 of the California Health and Safety Code.

### **“PARTY POPPERS” and “POP ITS”**

Novelty items such as “party poppers” and “pop its” are allowed for sale at any retail outlet in California providing the local jurisdiction does not have an ordinance preventing the sale of such items. Although the packaging is like actual fireworks, these items are classified as a “pyrotechnic device” and not regulated as a “safe and sane” or “dangerous” firework.



## **FIREWORKS SAFETY:**

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/fireworks>

Consumer Product Safety Commission

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks>

California Office of the State Fire Marshal

<https://readyforwildfire.org/prevent-wildfire/fireworks-safety/>

National Safety Council

<https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/summer-safety/fireworks>

United States Fire Administration

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outdoor-fires/>

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

<https://www.atf.gov/explosives/fireworks-safety>

For additional information on fireworks regulations or fireworks safety, contact your local fire department.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA OFFICIAL SAFE AND SANE FIREWORKS SEAL:

