

# Fireworks Investigations and Inspections

May 2012

Connecticut State Police  
Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit



Detective Marc Lamberty  
Detective Paul Makuc

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## Objectives

- Review Connecticut Statutes/Regulations
- Application/Permit process
- Modifications
- Inspections
- Operator Responsibilities
- Safety
- Accidents
- Recognition
- Enforcement
- Contact Numbers



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### CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES

- **C.G.S. 29-357**  
Mandates the State Fire Marshal to adopt reasonable regulations, in accordance with Chapter 54 (Uniform Administrative Procedures Act) of C.G.S.



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**CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES**

Per **C.G.S. 29-357** the AHJ for fireworks and Special Effects is the State Fire Marshal.

**Chapter 54, Sec 4-166**, defines regulation and regulation making for state agencies.




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**CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES**

- **C.G.S. 29-357b**  
The State Fire Marshal shall adopt reasonable regulations for granting of permits for supervised displays for fireworks or for the indoor use of pyrotechnics, sparklers and fountains for special effects by municipalities, fair associations, amusement parks, other organizations or groups of individuals or artisans in pursuit of their trade.




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**CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES**

- **C.G.S. 29-357b** (cont'd):  
The permit for said events is issued by the State Fire Marshal and it explains the permit application process and the requirements.




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## CONNECTICUT FIREWORKS REGULATIONS

- Shooters shall abide by and maintain a copy (*written or electronic*) of the Connecticut Fireworks and Special Effects Code with them at the site of the display
- **NOTE:** Connecticut has **NOT** adopted *NFPA 1123 Fireworks Display*, therefore, it does **NOT** apply




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## PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Refer to Handout of  
**PROPOSED**  
*new*  
*Permit Application*

**NOTE:**  
This form is not in use yet...  
Pending approval




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**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO DISPLAY FIREWORKS OR SPECIAL EFFECTS**

1. Application and form DPS-584-C: Proof of Financial Responsibility must be completed and submitted to the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit. **Attention:** DL/FU Fireworks and Special Effects Licensing at least **15 days** prior to the date of the display.
2. The fee of \$100.00 is payable to the "Treasurer, State of Connecticut"
3. A copy of United States Coast Guard Marine Permit (not application) is required for fireworks fired from a barge.
4. Type or print legibly. Forms will be returned for legibility.

Type of Permit:     Fireworks     Special Effects

**For FIREWORKS displays,** please submit a diagram of the display site indicating the discharge site, location if the spectator viewing stands, buildings, highways, nearby utilities, trees and any overhead obstructions, compass heading indicating north, the date the diagram was produced and who produced the diagram. **This application will not be reviewed without this required documentation.**

Name of Applicant (Sponsoring organization): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (number, street, city, state and zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of authorized agent: (Last, first and middle initial) \_\_\_\_\_

Address of authorized agent (number, street, city, state and zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address of authorized agent: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number of authorized agent: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax number of authorized agent: \_\_\_\_\_

Exact location of display: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Display:	Time of Display:	Rain Date:	Time of display:
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**For SPECIAL EFFECTS displays,** please submit a diagram of the display site indicating the location and type of device to be used, location of the audience, a list of all special effects and type of detonation mechanism(s) to be used. Also, include distances and measurements of the display area including audience location as well as between the effects and equipment/firers used. **This application will not be reviewed without this required documentation.**

Name of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company address (number, street, city, state and zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

Company telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Company fax number: \_\_\_\_\_




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### PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Application and form DPS-884-C  
Proof of Financial Responsibility must be  
completed and submitted to the

Department of Emergency Services and Public  
Protection

1111 Country Club Road, Middletown, CT 06457

**Attention:** Special Licensing and Firearms Unit,  
Fireworks and Special Effects Licensing

at least **15 days** prior to the date of the display.



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### PERMIT APPLICATIONS

- Ensure map requirements are met with each application.
- Map distances must be verified annually.
- Signatures/dates are required on map annually.
- Letter sized paper, PLEASE!!
- Email and Cell Phone contact information appreciated.



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### MODIFICATIONS

- To ensure efficiency, all modification requests, i.e. dense pack firing trailers, firing boxes will be completed each April.
- Modifications must be approved annually



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**DISPLAY INSPECTIONS**

**FIRE PROTECTION**

- The local fire marshal or his certified designee shall be present at all fireworks displays
- Fire Department personnel shall remain on duty from the time that the fireworks are delivered to the display site until termination of the display and removal of all fireworks and debris from the site




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**DISPLAY INSPECTIONS**

**DISTANCES**

The minimum separation distance from spectators and inhabited buildings **shall NOT be less than 300 feet**




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**PRE DISPLAY INSPECTIONS**

- Verify Shooter's License  
**NOTE:** The permit does not name a specific shooter, just indicates the shooter must possess a **VALID** Connecticut Shooter's License
- Check product list and confirm shell counts
- All fireworks or special effects shall be properly inspected.




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**PRE DISPLAY INSPECTION**

- Mortar tubes shall be cleared of any residue and paper material prior to loading
- Mortar tubes shall be inspected for any damage and obstructions before loading.
- Mortar racks shall be inspected for proper and sound construction and secured in place
- Operator shall inspect all shells for defects prior to loading into mortars.



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## PRE DISPLAY INSPECTIONS

### ANGLE OF MORTARS

- When determining appropriate firing angle, operator shall consider wind direction and velocity predicted for firing time...angle should be as vertical as possible, except where such fireworks may be directed that falling residue will fall into water.



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### OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- All persons employed in connection with the fireworks or special effects display properly perform their duties and conduct themselves in a safe and appropriate manner.
- Two or more persons shall be on duty during display of fireworks or special effects. At least one of them shall hold a certificate of competency, while the second shall assist the certificate holder.



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### OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- The State Fire Marshal, Local Fire Marshal, or senior fire officer at the scene may limit the number of persons in the safety fallout zone in the interests of public safety.
- Assistants must be at least 18 years of age and not have had a certificate of competency suspended or revoked at the time of the display.



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**OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Drugs or alcohol, persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or persons under the age of 18 shall be prohibited from the discharge or storage site.



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**OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

**POST DISPLAY**

- Upon completion of display, operator shall make a complete and thorough search for any unfired fireworks or firework component that have failed to fire or function properly and shall dispose of them in a safe manner.



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### POST DISPLAY INSPECTION

- Such search shall begin at the earliest possible time following conclusion of the display, but in no event later than the first period of daylight which follows the display.
- Any fireworks that remain unfired after the display is concluded shall be immediately disposed of or removed from the display site in a manner safe for the particular type of fireworks used.
- Operator shall properly dispose of debris from discharged fireworks before leaving display site.



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### OPERATOR SAFETY REQUIREMENTS DURING FIREWORKS DISPLAYS

Operator and assistants **shall** wear appropriate safety equipment including, but not limited to, **eye, ear, and head protection.**

Any person manually discharging aerial shells or reloading mortars during the display shall wear eye, ear, head protection and long sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, shoes or boots, and gloves. Cotton/non static producing clothing is suggested.



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### ACCIDENTS

- All accidents involving fireworks or special effects that cause personal injury or property damage must be reported to the State Fire Marshal and Local Fire Marshal.
- In case of accident, protect scene. Leave all equipment and items used in place.
- Injury accidents require written report from operator with 48 hours. Report submitted to CSP FEIU.



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### ACCIDENTS

#### Injury accident reports must include:

- Cause and extent of injury.
- Name and address of injured party.
- Name and address of operator and any/all assistants.
- Detailed description of how accident occurred.
- Take photographs when possible



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### ACCIDENTS

#### Property damage only:

- 10 days for submission of written report
- Include nature and extent of property damage.
- Statement regarding whether any fires were caused.
- Manufacturer's name, type and size of any shell that failed to discharge or was otherwise defective.



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## FIREWORKS STATUTES

### Sparklers and Fountains defined PA 06-177

**Sparkler**-Wire or stick coated with pyrotechnic composition that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition. 100 gram maximum each.

**Fountain**-Any cardboard or heavy paper cone or cylindrical tube containing pyrotechnic mixture that upon ignition produces a shower of colored sparks or smoke. Includes spike, base or handle fountain, 100 gram maximum each fountain, 2 or more fountains on same base, total pyrotechnic mixture cannot exceed 200 grams combined.



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## FIREWORKS STATUTES

### Sparklers and Fountains (cont'd):

A person 16 years or older may sell, purchase, use, or possess with intent to sell sparklers and fountains. **OUTDOOR USE ONLY!**

Indoor use requires Special Effect permit issued by the CSP FEIU.



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## FIREWORKS STORAGE

Sparklers and Fountains are legal for sale, use and distribution in accordance with **C.G.S. 29-357**; however, storage must comply with applicable sections of the Connecticut Fire Safety and Building Codes.



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## FIREWORKS RECOGNITION

Fireworks are classified into two groups:



*Division 1.3G (Class B)  
Display Fireworks*



*Division 1.4G (Class C)  
Common Fireworks*



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## FIREWORKS RECOGNITION

### *Division 1.3G (Class B) Display Fireworks*

- Larger fireworks normally manufactured for public displays, i.e. aerial shells, mines, comets, etc.
- Manufacture, sale, transport and use is regulated by Federal **AND** State agencies.



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## FIREWORKS RECOGNITION

### *Division 1.3G (Class B) Display Fireworks*

- Connecticut requires a pyrotechnician license
- Display permits granted by CSP/FEIU upon approval of application filed with local authorities
- Shells range in size from 1.5" to over 12".



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## FIREWORKS RECOGNITION

### *Division 1.3G (Class B) Display Fireworks*

- Can function at ground level, low/high altitudes.
- Fired from unit or multiple units placed in racks, sandboxes, or buried in the ground for larger shells.
- Smaller diameter shells could be discharged from multiple holders held together by a wooden base or cardboard containers known as cakes, barrages, etc.



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### FIREWORKS RECOGNITION

#### Division 1.4G (Class C) Common Fireworks

- Type most commonly used by the public
- Small, limited amounts of pyrotechnic mixture
- Examples include: bottle rockets, black cats, lady fingers, roman candles, etc.

**ALL ARE ILLEGAL  
IN CONNECTICUT**




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### FIREWORKS RECOGNITION

#### Novelties and Trick Noisemakers:

- These items are unclassified; however, under Connecticut regulations, they are considered fireworks
- Fireworks in this class include small items which produce smoke, ash, or small noise and include snap poppers, party poppers, smoke bombs, snakes, etc.




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### FIREWORKS RECOGNITION

#### Illegally Manufactured Explosive Devices

- Illegally manufactured explosive devices are frequently referred to as fireworks because they look like firecrackers
- These items are commonly known as; M80s, M100s, M1000s, Cherry Bombs, Quarter Sticks, Blockbuster, etc.




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### FIREWORKS RECOGNITION

#### Illegally Manufactured Explosive Devices

These devices are **NOT** fireworks. They **MUST** be treated as explosive devices and are capable of causing sever injury or death.

Possession of these devices is a violation of **C.G.S. 29-348**, Illegal Possession of Explosives, and/or Manufacture of Bombs, **C.G.S. 53-80a**. Both are felony charges.



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### FIREWORKS RECOGNITION

#### Illegally Manufactured Explosive Devices

There are commercially manufactured items that, for marketing purposes, are made to look like an M-XXX type explosive.

They will be clearly marked by the manufacturer, and not illegally manufactured explosive devices. However, they are

**ILLEGAL** in Connecticut and are a violation of **C.G.S. 29-357**.



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**CONFISCATION AND SEIZURE OF FIREWORKS**

- All seized fireworks shall be properly transported and stored in an adequate storage facility.
- Fireworks should **NOT** be stored in public/occupied buildings.
- The State Police Bomb Squad can assist local authorities with the transport, storage and disposal of seized fireworks. (860) 456-5850 or (800) 842-0200 (weekends, holidays, after hours).




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**CONFISCATION AND SEIZURE OF FIREWORKS**

**IMPORTANT**

- **C.G.S. 29-363**, "if judgment is against one defendant only, he SHALL pay the expense of the transportation and storage incurred in the seizure and detention of the fireworks claimed by him; but if the judgment is against more than one defendant...such expense SHALL be apportioned among them by the court."




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**ENFORCEMENT**

Illegal Possession, Use or Sale of Fireworks  
is a violation of C.G.S. 29-357.

The **PENALTY** statute for violations of  
C.G.S. 29-357 is **29-357(d)**.

This statute is a Misdemeanor and is used for  
Fireworks as defined under C.G.S. 29-356, to  
include Class C (1.4G) common fireworks




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**ENFORCEMENT**

Illegal Possession of Explosives  
is a violation of C.G.S. **29-348**.

This statute is a Felony and is used for “any  
person having in his possession any explosive  
(as defined under C.G.S. 29-344 to 29-349) for  
which he has not a bill of sale or who cannot  
produce legal evidence showing that he  
obtained such explosive by legal transfer.

This includes Class B (1.3G) display fireworks




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**ENFORCEMENT**

The Connecticut State Police Fire & Explosion  
Investigation Unit will provide technical support  
and guidance to assist local authorities to  
determine actions they make take in  
confiscation, seizures, and the pursuit of  
violations.

**Call the CSP Message Center 24/7 at  
(800) 842-0200 or (860) 685-8190  
and request to speak to a supervisor  
of the CSP FEIU**




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**Connecticut State Police  
Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit**

CSP HQ 24 hour #'s  
800-842-0200  
860-685-8190

TFC Marc Lamberty #0575  
Cell: 860-818-2335  
[marc.lamberty@ct.gov](mailto:marc.lamberty@ct.gov)  
[csposfm@gmail.com](mailto:csposfm@gmail.com)

TFC Paul Makuc #0885  
Cell: 860-250-7672  
[paul.makuc@ct.gov](mailto:paul.makuc@ct.gov)




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**Points of Contact**

- CSP/HQ (800) 842-0200 or (860) 685-8190 *(24 hours)*
- CSP/FEIU (860) 685-8460
- CSP/ESU-Bomb Squad (860) 456-5850
- CPSC (860) 566-2294, (800) 842-2644
- ATF-CT (203) 240-3185
- CT DOT (860)-594-3447




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**Questions,  
Comments,  
Concerns??**




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