

NEWS RELEASE

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Unit Chief
John Owens



Tuesday June 24th, 2025

SLO COUNTY ENACTS STRICTER FIREWORKS ORDINANCE TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY

San Luis Obispo, CA — In response to growing concerns over illegal fireworks use and the associated risks of fires and injuries, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has adopted a new ordinance aimed at bolstering enforcement, enhancing public safety, and protecting community resources during the high-risk fire season. Effective June 19, the ordinance introduces stricter penalties for the use of illegal fireworks and establishes new enforcement measures. The new ordinance includes the following:

All unpermitted fireworks are prohibited in the county's unincorporated areas: these include the communities of Oceano, Cayucos, Nipomo, Avila Beach, Shandon, Creston, and Santa Margarita. Individual fire protection districts have their own ordinances, but most have similar bans in place.

- **\$1,000 fines per violation can be issued for any illegal fireworks activity. Individuals who use or allow the use of illegal fireworks on their property, regardless of whether they personally ignite them, are liable.**
- **Each discharge is a separate offense, meaning multiple fines can apply in one incident.**
- **Parents or guardians are strictly liable for any fireworks violations committed by minors under their care.**
- **Violators may also be charged for response costs, including firefighting, law enforcement, and medical response services.**
- **Fireworks may be seized, and responsible parties may be billed for disposal.**
- **Criminal penalties may also apply, including fines starting at \$2,000 for possession or use of dangerous (those not labeled "safe and sane") fireworks, and felony charges for possessing more than 500 pounds of fireworks.**
- **A formal appeals process is in place, but fines must be paid in advance.**

The new ordinance affects most unincorporated areas of the county, including Oceano, where "safe and sane" fireworks were allowed when the Oceano Community Services District was responsible for the community's fire protection. With OCSO officially divesting from fire service at the beginning of this year, the County is now responsible for fire protection in Oceano. As a result, County fire codes and ordinances now apply within Oceano, including the County's long-standing prohibition on safe and sane fireworks.

Enhanced enforcement efforts will be concentrated in specific high-priority areas. For more information on the ordinance and safe celebration alternatives, visit www.slocounty.ca.gov/fireworks

###

For more information or media inquiries, contact our Public Information Office at www.calfireslo.org/pio

CAL FIRE SLU / SLO County Fire Department

100 Cross Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 543 4244

Email: slu.reception@fire.ca.gov

Website: calfireslo.org

Instagram: [calfiresanluisobispo](https://www.instagram.com/calfiresanluisobispo)

X or Twitter: [calfire_slo](https://twitter.com/calfire_slo)