



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief*

DATE: July 2, 2012
CONTACT: Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-5950, 800-426-8689, pager #3307

Fireworks Interdiction Task Force Makes Two Arrests, Confiscates 7,750 Pounds of Fireworks

Investigation by San Bernardino County Fire Investigators and Fire Prevention Officers on random days during the month of June and July has resulted in confiscation of 7,750 pounds of illegal, dangerous fireworks and two felony arrests have been made.

While at the Yermo Agricultural Inspection Station on southbound I-15, investigators confiscated 3,950 pounds of illegal fireworks from a U-Haul box van, resulting in two arrests. Three citations were also issued. Arrested were Franco Colin, 24, of Los Angeles and a 16 year old male of Bell. Both were booked for violation of California Health & Safety Code 12677; possession of dangerous fireworks without a permit. Colin was booked into a county detention facility. The juvenile was taken to Juvenile Hall and later released to his parents. If convicted, the two are subject to imprisonment of up to one year, fines of up to \$5,000, or both. Possession of dangerous fireworks weighing 100 pounds or more is a felony.

The interdiction task force also confiscated fireworks from a number of violators. Twenty-two administrative citations for possession of small amounts of fireworks were issued in these cases, carrying a fine of \$1,250 each. State Agricultural Inspectors were extremely helpful in identifying vehicles containing possible illegal fireworks.

All confiscated fireworks are taken to the Sheriff's Arson/Bomb Range, where they are turned over to the State Fire Marshal's Office for final disposition.

Under California law, all fireworks that explode, shoot into the air, or move along the ground are considered dangerous and are illegal to possess without a permit. That includes firecrackers, skyrocketers, roman candles, mortars and "chasers" that dart along the ground, and safe and sane fireworks that have been modified.

In the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County, possession of any type of fireworks, including the "Safe and Sane" fireworks allowed in some County communities, is illegal. Fireworks will be confiscated and citations will be issued. In the event a fire occurs due to the unsafe use of fireworks, individuals may be criminally charged and responsible for restitution.

Photos are available at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

###