

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Dave Heineman
Governor



STATE FIRE MARSHAL
John Falgione
Fire Marshal

July 1, 2010

EXPLOSIVES FOUND BY STATE FIRE MARSHAL AT ASHLAND FIREWORKS STAND

(Lincoln, Neb.) The selling of legal fireworks in Nebraska began last Friday on June 25, in locations where permitted. On Monday, June 28, State Fire Marshal investigators purchased illegal explosive devices from an individual working in a retail fireworks stand at 102 South 21st Street in Ashland.

The license for the stand was revoked and the entire stock of merchandise seized. William L. Kunath was arrested for possession and sale of explosives and lodged in the Saunders County Jail.

The State Fire Marshal's Office has a deep concern about the safety of these devices.

"These devices are made, packaged and labeled to appear like consumer fireworks, yet they are powerful enough to cause dismemberment, blindness or death," State Fire Marshal John Falgione said. "These devices are extremely dangerous due to their deceptive packaging. While they may look like other kinds of fireworks they contain enough powder to be considered explosives."

Anyone who may have purchased these items is urged to call the State Fire Marshal's Office at 402-471-2027, call the Arson Hotline at 1-888-WY-ARSON (888-992-7766), or to contact their local law enforcement agency to ensure their proper handling and safe destruction.

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Media please note: Attached are several photos of the explosives seized this week by investigators. Media with additional questions can contact Assistant Fire Marshal Jim Heine at 402-471-2027.

□ **MAIN OFFICE**
□ **DISTRICT A**
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
(402) 471-2027

□ **DISTRICT B**
438 West Market
Albion, NE 68620-1241
(402) 395-2164

□ **DISTRICT C**
200 South Silber
North Platte, NE 69101-4219
(308) 535-8181

Fuels Division
□ **FLST** □ **Pipeline**
246 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508-1804
(402) 471-9465

□ **TRAINING DIVISION**
2410 North Wheeler Avenue
Suite 112
Grand Island, NE 68801-2376
(308) 385-6892