

## Firework Licensing Effectiveness

Fireworks are a product designed to explode or catch fire; as such, they pose a significant risk for injury or property harm. The State Fire Marshal Agency (SFM) provides three levels of licenses/permits within consumer fireworks. These are the Distributor, Jobber and retail stand permit. The Distributor and Jobber permits are utilized by companies or individuals who wish to sell consumer fireworks at wholesale. The most common scenario is to sell them to retail stand permit holders, who then in turn sell the product to the public. By licensing these parties the SFM helps to ensure that public safety is maintained through a knowledge of who is bring product into the state, as well as where the product is being sold. Retail stand inspections work to ensure public safety by maintain compliance with adopted code requirements for issues such as safe exiting, proper display methods, proper building materials for the locations, and numerous other issues. The permitting of the stands provides the Agency with the physical locations for the inspections. The licensing of the Distributors and Jobbers ensures that companies and people selling these products know what is allowed in Nebraska and provides contact information if there are questions that arise in the inspection process. It is not possible to eliminate all injuries or property damage that occur with fireworks because there is no way to ensure they are always used in the intended manner. However, licensing and permitting has helped reduce the number as the SFM can help ensure allowed products are being sold and from safe locations.