

FAQs for the Special Hazards Section

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q: What does the Special Hazards section regulate?

A: The Special Hazards section regulates the storage, use, transportation, handling, processing, and in some cases the sale of materials that present special hazards to persons and property.

Q: What types of materials are considered special hazards?

A: Special hazards include, but are not limited to:

- flammable and combustible liquids
- compressed natural gas
- liquefied natural gas
- flammable gases (including LP-Gas)
- explosives
- pyrotechnics
- display fireworks
- consumer fireworks

The Special Hazards Section oversees various aspects related to these materials, including:

- Storage
- Use
- Transportation
- Handling
- Processing
- In some cases, the sale of these materials

The special hazards section also works with inspections and engineering buildings and other facilities that present a special hazard such as motor vehicle racetracks.

Inspections and Compliance

Q: Who conducts inspections for special hazards?

A: Special Hazards Fire Safety Compliance Officers conduct inspections. These officers are assigned to specific counties throughout Georgia. A list of inspectors and the counties they serve can be found here: [Special Hazards Fire Safety Compliance Officers | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: How can I request an inspection?

A: Inspections can be requested through the OCI Citizenserve Portal or by contacting the responsible inspector directly. A list of inspectors and the counties they serve can be found here: [Special Hazards Fire Safety Compliance Officers | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Complaints and Investigations

Q: Does the Special Hazards section investigate complaints?

A: Yes, the Special Hazards section assists the public by investigating complaints in various fields, including blasting, motor vehicle racetracks, and self-service stations.

Q: How can I file a complaint related to special hazards?

A: Complaints can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Click the Login button in the top-right corner of the page.
2. If you are a new user, follow the prompts to register for an account.
3. Once logged in, scroll down to the section labeled Special Hazards Services.

4. Select the blue box titled “Complaints”
5. Select the type of complaint being filed.
6. Fill out the online form in its entirety and click “Submit” when done.

Q: Who can I speak to about my complaint before I file it?

A: You may contact the inspector responsible for the area directly. A list of inspectors and the counties they serve can be found here: [Special Hazards Fire Safety Compliance Officers | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Flammable and Combustible Liquids (including gasoline, diesel, etc.)

Q: What systems fall under Special Hazards?

A: Any storage system that involves tanks greater than 660 gallons storage capacity. This includes generators, boilers, etc.

Q: What codes and standards are used?

A: The State Fire Marshal's Office adopts and modifies national standards. Refer to Rules and Regulations 120-3-11 for adopted codes and modifications. Found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: What is required to be submitted to the Special Hazards Section?

A: Complete plans and specifications for all storage over 660 gallons individual tank capacity must be submitted for review and approval prior to construction.

Q: What needs to be submitted?

A: You will find all minimum plan submittal requirements in Rules and Regulations 120-3-11 here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: How do I submit plans?

A: Flammable and Combustible Liquid plans can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal.

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled “Special Hazards Services”
3. Click on the first blue box titled “Permits and Plan Reviews”
4. Select “Flammable Liquid Plan Review”.
5. Select the subtype that applies to your installation.
6. Fill out the online form in its entirety, upload your plans, and click “Submit” when done.
7. The system will automatically direct you to the payment screen.
8. Once payment is made, your plans will be forward for review.

Self Service Stations

Q: What is a self-service station?

A: Any station where the public is allowed to dispense fuel into their vehicles, including marine and aircraft fueling.

Q: What codes and standards are used?

A: The State Fire Marshal's Office adopts and modifies national standards. Refer to Rules and Regulations 120-3-11 for adopted codes and modifications. Found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: What permits are required for a self-service station?

A: A self-service station permit must be issued by the Special Hazards section prior to self-service permits being conducted at any location.

Q: Does the self-service permit expire?

A: Yes. The self-service station permit expires upon any change of ownership, lessee or lessor, or operator of the station.

Q: How do I apply for a new self service-station permit for change of ownership, lessee or lessor, or operator?

A: Self Service Stations “Change of Ownership” applications can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal.

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled “Special Hazards Services”
3. Click on the first blue box titled “Permits and Plan Reviews”
4. Select “Service Station Permit”.
5. Select the sub type “Self Service Change of Ownership”.
6. Fill out the online form in its entirety and click “Submit”
7. The system will automatically direct you to the payment screen.
8. Once payment is made, your application will be forward for review.
9. Applicants must contact an inspector to schedule an inspection for issuance of permit. A list of inspectors and the counties they serve can be found here: [Special Hazards Fire Safety Compliance Officers | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: Are plans required to be submitted and approved for self-service stations?

A: Yes. Plans must be submitted and approved for all new self-service stations and any major modifications to any existing self-service stations prior to construction.

Q: How do I submit plans for a new self-service station?

A: New Self Service Station plans can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled “Special Hazards Services”
3. Click on the first blue box titled “Permits and Plan Reviews”
4. Select “Service Station Permit”.

5. Select the sub type “Self Service”.
6. Select “new” when prompted
7. Fill out the online form in its entirety, upload your plans, and click “Submit” when done.
8. The system will automatically direct you to the payment screen.
9. Once payment is made, your plans will be forward for review.
10. When applying for a new self-service station, the self-service permit application is included in the plan review process.

Q: What needs to be submitted?

A: You will find all minimum plan submittal requirements in Rules and Regulations 120-3-11 found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Fireworks

Q: What are fireworks?

A: Fireworks are broken into two categories:

- 1: Display Fireworks: Fireworks specifically designed for professional use by licensed operators in outdoor displays. These items are also regulated by the ATF.
- 2: Consumer Fireworks: Smaller fireworks items available to the general public through sales by dealers licensed by the Georgia Safety Fire Commissioner.

Q: What codes and standards are used by the Special Hazards section for fireworks?

A: The State Fire Marshal's Office adopts and modifies national standards. Refer to Rules and Regulations 120-3-22 for adopted codes and modifications. Found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Licensing for sale of consumer fireworks

Q: Is a license required for the sale of consumer fireworks?

A: Yes. A license must be issued by the Safety Fire Commissioner prior to ANY retail or wholesale sales of consumer fireworks to the public.

Q: Can I sell consumer fireworks from my home or vehicle?

A: **NO!** Consumer fireworks must be sold from a licensed retail sales facility, store, or stand.

Q: Does the license expire?

A: Yes. All licenses for the sale of consumer fireworks expire on January 31. Applications for renewal of licenses must be submitted no later than December 1 of the year preceding application.

A2: Fireworks licenses are non-transferable and will expire upon any change of facility location or owner.

Q: What is the cost of a license to sell consumer fireworks?

A: For retail sales facilities (places used primarily for the sale of fireworks) the initial license fee is \$5000.00. The annual renewal fee is \$1000.00

A2: For stores (places that sell predominately non fireworks items i.e. Walmart), the fees are as follows:

Main Office: \$1500.00 initial and \$1000.00 annual renewal

Store locations under main office locations: \$250.00 initial per location, \$100.00 per location annual renewal

A3: Temporary stand licenses are issued by the local fire authority at \$500.00 per location.

Q: How do I apply for a license?

A: Consumer Fireworks License applications can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal.

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled "Special Hazards Services"
3. Click on the second blue box titled "License Applications"
4. Select "Consumer Fireworks Retail Sales Facility and Wholesale" or "Consumer Fireworks Store", whichever is applicable.
5. Select the applicable sub type.
6. Complete the online form and click "Submit"

7. The system will then go to payment screen.
8. Once payment is made, the application will forward for review.

Q: Are plans required for retail fireworks locations?

A: Conditionally. Plans must be submitted for review and approval for all Retail Sales Facilities and Stores that will have more than 1000 pounds of packaged consumer fireworks in the building at any time

Q: What needs to be submitted?

A: You will find all minimum plan submittal requirements in Rules and Regulations 120-3-22 found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Explosives

Q: What codes and standards are used?

A: The State Fire Marshal's Office adopts and modifies national standards. Refer to Rules and Regulations 120-3-10 for adopted codes and modifications. Found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: Is a license required for explosives?

A: Yes. A license issued by the State Fire Marshal is required for:

- Manufacturing any explosives or blasting agents
- Purchasing, selling, transporting, storing, possessing, or using explosives or blasting agents commercially
- Maintaining facilities for unloading, reloading, or transshipment of explosives
- Commercial storage of black powder or smokeless propellant used for commercial purposes including ammunition manufacturing

A2: A license is **NOT** required for storage of up to 50 pounds of black powder or smokeless propellant used for **PERSONAL** ammunition loading

Q: Does the license expire?

A: Yes. All explosives licenses expire on December 31 of each year.

Q: How do I apply for a license?

A: Explosive's License applications can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal.

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled "Special Hazards Services"
3. Click on the second blue box titled "License Applications"
4. Select "Explosives License".
5. Select the applicable sub type.
6. Complete the online form and click "Submit"
7. The system will then go to payment screen.
8. Once payment is made, the application will forward for review.

Q: How much does the license cost?

A: For the storage of less than 500 pounds: \$75.00 per year

For the storage of greater than 500 pounds: \$150.00 per year

An additional fee of \$150.00 per year for the manufacture of explosives

Q: Are plans required to be submitted for explosives storage?

A: Conditionally. Applications for permanent explosives storage facilities exceeding 500 pounds must be submitted for review and approval.

Q: How do I submit plans for explosives storage locations?

A: Explosives storage locations plans can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled "Special Hazards Services"
3. Click on the first blue box titled "Permits and Plan Reviews"
4. Select "Explosive Plan Review".
5. Complete the online form, upload plans and click "Submit"
6. The system will then go to payment screen.
7. Once payment is made, your plans will be forward for review.

Q: What needs to be submitted?

A: You will find all minimum plan submittal requirements in Rules and Regulations 120-3-10 found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: Do incidents involving explosives need to be reported to the State Fire Marshal's Office?

A: Yes. Licensed individuals are required to report incidents involving explosives, including:

- Loss
- Theft
- Fires
- Accidents
- Flyrock

Q: How can I report an incident involving explosives?

A: Incident reports can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Log in to the Citizenserve Portal using the account under which your license was issued.
2. Scroll down to the fourth option titled "Special Hazards Services"
3. Click on the fourth blue box titled "Incident Reports"
4. Select the type of complaint being filed.
5. Complete the online form and click "Submit"

LP-Gas (propane, butane)

Q: What codes and standards are used?

A: The State Fire Marshal's Office adopts and modifies national standards. Refer to Rules and Regulations 120-3-16 for adopted codes and modifications. Found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: Is a license required for LP-Gas?

A: Yes and No. A license issued by the State Fire Marshal is required to:

Manufacture

Distribute

Sell OR Store for sale or transportation

A2: A license is **NOT** required for storage ultimate consumers (the people using the LP-Gas for home heating, forklifts, burners, etc.)

Q: Does the license expire?

A: Only on a change of owner, operator or supplier.

Q: How do I apply for a license?

A: LP-Gas license applications can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled “Special Hazards Services”
3. Click on the second blue box titled “License Applications”
4. Select “Liquified Petroleum Gas License”.
5. Select the applicable sub type.
6. Complete the online form and click “Submit”
7. The system will then go to payment screen.
8. Once payment is made, the application will forward for review.

Q: Are plans required to be submitted for LP-Gas storage?

A: Conditionally. Plans must be submitted for ALL LP-Gas storage exceeding 2,000 gallons capacity.

A2: Plans for LP-Gas vehicle fueling stations must be submitted for any size if it is within 50 feet of any equipment storing or dispensing flammable liquids (mainly gas and diesel)

Q: How do I submit plans for LP-Gas locations?

A: LP-Gas plans can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled “Special Hazards Services”
3. Click on the first blue box titled “Permits and Plan Reviews”
4. Select “Liquified Petroleum Plan Review”.
5. Select the applicable sub type.
6. Complete the online form, upload plans and click “Submit”
7. The system will then go to payment screen.
8. Once payment is made, your plans will be forward for review.

Q: What needs to be submitted?

A: You will find all minimum plan submittal requirements in Rules and Regulations 120-3-16 found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: Do incidents involving LP-Gas need to be reported to the State Fire Marshal's Office?

A: Yes. All owners, managers or operators are required to report all fires and incidents within 8 hours of the incident occurring. In addition to the initial notification, all owners, managers or operators must submit a written report 72 hours of the incident occurring.

Q: How can I report an incident involving LP-Gas?

A: Incident reports can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Log in to the Citizenserve Portal using the account under which your license was issued.
2. Scroll down to the fourth option titled "Special Hazards Services"
3. Click on the fourth blue box titled "Incident Reports"
4. Select the type of complaint being filed.
5. The written report of the incident may also be submitted here.
6. Complete the online form and click "Submit"

Outdoor Fireworks Displays

Q: What codes and standards are used?

A: The State Fire Marshal's Office adopts and modifies national standards. Refer to Rules and Regulations 120-3-22 for adopted codes and modifications. Found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: Is a license required for outdoor fireworks displays?

A: Yes. A license issued by the State Fire Marshal is required for public displays of fireworks using display fireworks or consumer fireworks.

A2: A license is **NOT** required for the personal private use of consumer fireworks by the public.

Q: Is a license required for outdoor fireworks displays using ONLY consumer fireworks?

A: Yes. A license issued by the State Fire Marshal is required for public displays of fireworks using only consumer fireworks.

A2: A license is **NOT** required for the personal private use of consumer fireworks by the public.

Q: Is a permit required for each fireworks display?

A: Yes. Permits to conduct individual fireworks displays are issued by the local fire authority. Please contact your local fire authority for further information.

Q: Does the license expire?

A: Yes, the license expires December 31 of each year. Application for renewal of license must be submitted no later than November 1 of each year.

Q: How do I apply for a license?

A: Outdoor Fireworks Displays license applications can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled "Special Hazards Services"
3. Click on the second blue box titled "License Applications"
4. Select "Outdoor Fireworks License".
5. Select the applicable sub type.
6. Complete the online form and click "Submit"
7. The system will then go to payment screen.
8. Once payment is made, the application will forward for review.

Q: How much does the license cost?

A: The annual fee for the license is \$500.00. Operators and assistants are added to the license with no additional fee.

Q: Are plans required to be submitted for fireworks displays?

A: Permits to conduct the display are issued by the Local Fire Authority. Please check with your local fire authority regarding requirements.

A2: Plans for ALL displays conducted on State properties must be submitted to the State Fire Marshal's Office for review.

Q: How do I submit plans for fireworks displays conducted on State properties?

A: Fireworks Displays conducted on State properties plans can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled “Special Hazards Services”
3. Click on the first blue box titled “Permits and Plan Reviews”
4. Select “Pyrotechnic Display Reviews for State Buildings”.
5. Select the applicable sub type.
6. Complete the online form, upload plans and click “Submit”
7. Plans will forward for review.

Proximate Audience Pyrotechnic Displays

Q: What is a proximate audience pyrotechnic display?

A: Any exhibition or display of fireworks, or any use of pyrotechnic special effects, that occurs within a building or structure or before an audience closer to the pyrotechnic devices than permitted by NFPA 1123, *Code for Fireworks Display*.

Q: What codes and standards are used?

A: The State Fire Marshal's Office adopts and modifies national standards. Refer to Rules and Regulations 120-3-22 for adopted codes and modifications. Found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: Is a license required for Proximate Audience Pyrotechnic Displays?

A: Yes. A license issued by the State Fire Marshal is required to conduct proximate audience pyrotechnic displays.

Q: Is a permit required to conduct proximate audience pyrotechnic displays?

A: Yes. Permits to conduct individual proximate audience pyrotechnic displays are issued by the local fire authority. Please contact your local fire authority for further information.

Q: Does the license expire?

A: Yes, the license expires December 31 of each year.

Q: How do I apply for a license?

A: Proximate Audience Pyrotechnic Displays applications can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled “Special Hazards Services”
3. Click on the second blue box titled “License Applications”
4. Select “Proximate Audience Pyrotechnics license”
5. Complete the online form and click “Submit”
6. The system will then go to payment screen.
7. Once payment is made, the application will forward for review.

Q: How much does the license cost?

A: The annual fee for the license is \$1500.00. Operators and assistants are added to the license with no additional fee.

Q: Are plans required to be submitted for proximate audience pyrotechnics displays?

A: Permits to conduct the display are issued by the Local Fire Authority. Please check with your local fire authority regarding requirements.

A2: Plans for ALL displays conducted on State properties must be submitted to the State Fire Marshal's Office for review.

Q: How do I submit plans for fireworks displays conducted on State properties?

A: Proximate Audience Pyrotechnic Displays plans can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled "Special Hazards Services"
3. Click on the first blue box titled "Permits and Plan Reviews"
4. Select "Pyrotechnic Display Reviews for State Buildings".
5. Select the applicable sub type.
6. Complete the online form, upload plans and click "Submit"
7. Plans will forward for review.

Storage of Display Fireworks

Q: What codes and standards are used?

A: The State Fire Marshal's Office adopts and modifies national standards. Refer to Rules and Regulations 120-3-22 for adopted codes and modifications. Found here: [Rules and Regulations | Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire](#)

Q: Is a license required the storage of display fireworks?

A: A license IS required for the storage of display fireworks (Class B explosives) ONLY if those fireworks are being stored for the purpose of a public display.

Q: Does the license expire?

A: Yes. All the license expires on December 31 of each year.

Q: How much does the license cost?

A: The license costs \$1500.00 annually.

Q: How do I apply for a license?

A: Storage of Display Fireworks license applications can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal.

1. Click the Login button in the top right corner to sign in. If you do not have an account, please register before continuing.
2. Scroll down the page and select the fourth option titled “Special Hazards Services”
3. Click on the second blue box titled “License Applications”
4. Select “Manufacture and/or Store Fireworks License”.
5. Select the applicable sub type.
6. Complete the online form and click “Submit”
7. The system will then go to the payment screen.
8. Once payment is made, the application will forward for review.

Q: Do incidents involving the manufacture or storage of display fireworks need to be reported to the State Fire Marshal’s Office?

A: Yes. Licensed individuals are required to report incidents involving explosives, including:

- Loss
- Theft
- Fires
- Accidents

Q: How can I report an incident involving the manufacture or storage of display fireworks?

A: Incident reports can be submitted online through the OCI Citizenserve Portal

1. Log in to the Citizenserve Portal using the account under which your license was issued.
2. Scroll down to the fourth option titled “Special Hazards Services”
3. Click on the fourth blue box titled “Incident Reports”
4. Select the type of complaint being filed.
5. The written report of the incident may also be submitted here.

