



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

625 Court Street, Room 204 • Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8195 • FAX (530) 666-8193
www.YoloCounty.gov

District 1, **Oscar Villegas**
District 2, **Lucas Frerichs**
District 3, **Mary Vixie Sandy**
District 4, **Sheila Allen**
District 5, **Angel Barajas**

County Administrator, **Michael Webb**
Sr. Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**
Email: clerkoftheboard@yolocounty.gov

Statement from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors is committed to ensuring public safety and maintaining full transparency as we share information regarding the recent Oakdale Fire incident. Because a criminal investigation is ongoing, some of the County's releases of information are coordinated with the Yolo County District Attorney's Office to avoid interfering with the investigation. The District Attorney's Office has authorized the release of County building permit files and related records.

The released records show that in mid-2022, County Building Division staff were made aware of possible fireworks storage at the property where the explosions and fire occurred. At that time, the Building Division was processing a permit application for a new agricultural equipment storage building on the property. Building Division staff consulted with the Esparto Fire Protection District, visited the property, and met with a representative of the property owner. Their review found that as of mid-2022:

- Display-grade fireworks were stored in shipping containers licensed by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Available records do not identify the location of these shipping containers as of mid-2022, but they may have been the containers located on the west side of the property at the time of the incident. Those containers were not involved in the incident and CALFIRE seized and removed their contents after the incident occurred.
- According to the owner's representative, in mid-2022, "safe and sane" fireworks were stored from time-to-time in about 25 shipping containers on the incident site, with occasional processing and repackaging in accordance with ATF regulations.
- No fireworks or other hazardous materials were observed during the Building Division's mid-2022 visit. The property owner and building contractor consistently represented that the new building under construction would be used only for agricultural purposes.

The Building Division promptly reported these findings to departmental leadership and County Code Enforcement. No further enforcement action occurred, and Building Division staff did not return to the site or take other actions relating to fireworks at the site after mid-2022. Evidence from Google Earth images and media reports suggests that display-grade fireworks storage and handling increased greatly after mid-2022. However, neither the Building Division nor Code Enforcement received reports or complaints about such activity. Also, as the County has previously stated, at no time did the County receive any applications or issue any permits, licenses, or other approvals authorizing fireworks storage, handling, or other activities on the property.

The County has launched an internal review of its code enforcement processes, procedures, and staffing. Findings and recommendations will be presented to the County Administrator's Office and reported publicly to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and potential action. In addition, CALFIRE continues to lead the criminal investigation, working with the Yolo County District Attorney's Office. The Board of Supervisors and all County departments are fully cooperating with this work.

The Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to public safety, accountability, and transparency, and will continue to keep the community informed.