

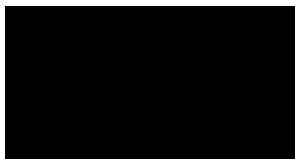


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8 June 2026

Ref: 21721



Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 8 May 2026 to Fire and Emergency New Zealand requesting information related to firework callout data under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). We copy and respond to each aspect of your request below.

- *A breakdown by month and region of callouts for the period 1st January 2020 through 31st March 2026 for the following categories:*
 1. *Firework related callouts. For clarification, I'm seeking the category of callouts as presented to the select committee considering the petitions to ban retail fireworks in 2025 who just released their report May 2026.*

Please find attached, as the **Appendix** to this response, a copy of the number of fire incidents related to fireworks between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2026. Please note, the incidents referred to in the appendix reflect incidents where the following information was recorded in the incident report:

- the Fire Cause was "Reckless with fireworks", or
- the Heat Source was "Fireworks / Pyrotechnics", or
- the First Object Ignited was "Pyrotechnics, Explosives, Fireworks."

2. *The number of callouts relating specifically to retail fireworks.*

We can advise that we do not capture the number of incident callouts related specifically to retail fireworks. For this reason, this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

3. *The number of callouts relating to sky lanterns or if this information doesn't exist, the numbers for the category they are part of.*

We can advise that incident reporters are able to record a heat source of a fire as being 'Sky/Chinese lanterns'. We can confirm that two incidents, where the heat source is noted as Sky/Chinese lanterns, have occurred between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2026. These two incidents were related to vegetation fires.

4. *The number of firework related callouts as per point 1 that resulted in a structure fire.*
5. *The number of firework related callouts as per point 1 that resulted in a vegetation fire.*

We refer you to the attached **Appendix**.

6. *The number of section 52 notices prohibiting the use of fireworks in force.*

We can advise there are no current section 52 notices in place prohibiting the use of fireworks.

7. *I would also like clarification of exactly what kind of callouts are classified as firework related as per point 1 above. Specifically, are sky lanterns included in these statistics? If not, what are they categorised as?*

Regarding callout classification, we refer you to our question one response which specifies the search parameters we used when extracting the incident callout data to be included in the appendix. We can further advise that the classification of 'fireworks' is recorded as a separate heat source to 'Sky/Chinese lanterns' in incident reporting. Therefore, 'Sky/Chinese lanterns' are excluded from the incident data in the appendix as they are captured separately.

8. *Are any other things included that don't meet the definition of fireworks as per the definition in the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996?
For clarification, the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017 refers to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 for their definition of "hazardous substance". The Hazardous Substances (Fireworks) Regulations 2001 also refers to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 for their definition of "firework". The Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017 has no definition of firework, but as it gets its definition of hazardous substance, of which firework is one, from this act, this appears to be the best source of a definition. The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 defines firework as: firework means an object containing small quantities of hazardous substances with explosive properties enclosed in a case of paper or similar material of such a strength, construction, and character that the ignition or explosion of one such firework will not cause the explosion en masse of similar fireworks kept or carried with it, and whose sole or principal effect is not percussive or vertical or horizontal flight.*

We have interpreted this aspect of your request to be asking whether there is anything included in the attached appendix which does not meet the definition of fireworks as per the definition in the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. As noted in our question one response, the data provided in the attached appendix only includes incidents that meet the search parameters of 'Fireworks'.

We trust that the information being provided is of assistance. If you require further information, please email officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz

Please note that because of the identified public interest in the information that you have requested, we intend to publish this response (with your personal details removed) on our website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Saunders'.

Aidan Saunders
Manager, Information Requests

