



City of Salinas
SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention Division – Office of the Fire Marshal
200 Lincoln Ave • Salinas, California 93901
(831) 758-7466 (Prevention)•FirePrevention@Salinas.Gov

**2026 Application for the Permit to Display and Sell “Safe-and-Sane” Fireworks
Eligibility Determination (Salinas City Code Chapter 13A)**

Applications Available	<u>February 2, 2026</u>
Application Submittal Deadline	<u>February 27, 2026 (5:00 PM)</u>
City Review of Applicant Eligibility	<u>March 2, 2026, to March 6, 2026</u>
Announcement of Qualified Applicants	<u>March 10, 2026</u>
Lottery Selection of Permittees	<u>March 16, 2026 (4:00PM)</u>
Final Paperwork Due from Permittees	<u>April 30, 2026 (5:00PM)</u>

Please complete this Application and return it to the Salinas Fire Department’s Fire Prevention Office located at 200 Lincoln Ave. **A check for the non-refundable amount of \$253.58 application fee, made payable to the City of Salinas, must accompany this Application.**

Check one of the following categories (*Please refer to the last pages for additional information and details.*)

- School Youth Organization Community Organization Religious, Fraternal, Service Organization

Name of School or Organization _____

Address of School or Organization _____

Name of Contact Person _____

Contact Person’s Phone Number _____ Contact Person’s Email _____

Name and Address of Joint Applicant (if applicable) _____

Address of Organization’s Principal Place of Business and Principal Meeting Place (Street Address, City, Zip Code)

Names of the Organization’s Principal Officers

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Name and Address of Affiliated Organization (if applicable) _____

Organization’s Tax-Exempt Status (**Check one category and attach a copy of the letter of determination. Documentation that is inaccurate or expired will not be accepted.**)

- Internal Revenue Service Franchise Tax Board

EIN or TIN: _____

Please note: If your non-profit organization is selected to host a fireworks booth, the Planning Department will require you to provide your IRS 501(c)(3) documentation.

Name and Address of Fireworks Distributor/Wholesaler _____

I certify that I am an authorized representative of the school or organization identified on this application, that I have the authority to submit this application on behalf of the school or organization, and that to the best of my knowledge the information provided on this application is true and correct.

Printed Name _____

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

This Application must be completed in its entirety. The failure to complete any part of this Application or to provide any of the required information may result in denial of your application. Submittal of more than one Application or submittal of false information on any Application shall be grounds for denial of all Applications.

Any attempt to transfer an Application shall void any and all Applications submitted by or on behalf of both the transferor and the transferee. Completion and submission of this Application and payment of the non-refundable application fee does not guarantee selection and does not guarantee the issuance of a Fireworks Sales Permit.

Section 13A-2(a) “Affiliated Organization.”

1. An organization incorporated under the same charter or organization and their auxiliaries if the auxiliary is incorporated under the same charter;
2. An organization sharing the same officers and/or place of meetings and/or national parent organization;
3. A subdivision and/or fractional division however named or delineated of another organization;
4. A sub-organization, one of whose primary purpose is to provide financial and/or manpower support to a parent nonprofit organization.

Section 13A-2(d) “Eligible Nonprofit Organization.”

A school or school organization or a duly organized nonprofit, tax exempt charitable, religious, civic or community service association, organization or corporation (collectively “the organization”) which has met all the following criteria continuously for a minimum period of one year immediately preceding the filing of an application for a permit to display for sale or to sell safe and sane fireworks.

1. The organization must be either a school or a school organization or a duly organized entity which has tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service or the Franchise Tax Board, and that serves, in whole or in part, residents of the City of Salinas.
2. The organization must have its principal place of business and principal meeting place within the City of Salinas and must hold its regularly scheduled meetings within the City of Salinas.
3. The organization must be one which provides direct and regular community services and benefits to the residents of the City of Salinas.
4. The organization must not have had a permit to sell revoked within twenty-four months prior to the organization’s submittal of an application for a permit to sell.

Section 13A-1) “Principal Place of Business” and “Principal Meeting Place.”

Includes, but is not limited to, a permanent structure, playing field, geographic area, or service population which resides in or is located within the City of Salinas.

Section 13A-7. Limitation on Permits to Sell Safe and Sane Fireworks; Selection of Eligible Nonprofit Organizations.

- (a) Each calendar year, the City shall issue, at the sole discretion of the City Council, up to a maximum number of permits at a ratio equal to one (1) for every eight thousand (8,000) residents, or fraction thereof, of the City of Salinas. One (1) permit shall be issued to each eligible nonprofit organization selected pursuant to this section.
- (b) If the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of permits which may be issued under this section, the City shall select from among the qualified applicants and shall issue permits by granting priority to the qualified applicants in the following order:

School organizations, with preference to High Schools (educational, athletic activity)
Youth sports and activities
Community organizations (arts, cultural, other)
Religious and fraternal, service, veterans’ organizations

Up to twelve (12) of the permits may be issued to schools or school organizations. The balance of the permits shall then be apportioned equally among the remaining categories, at random, as set forth in this section.
- (c) Two (2) or more eligible nonprofit organizations from the same priority category may jointly submit an application to the City pursuant to Section 13A-6 and may jointly receive a permit to sell fireworks pursuant to this Chapter.
- (d) The City’s Fire Marshal shall issue permits to those eligible nonprofit organizations that have submitted a conforming and timely application. Selection shall be made at random from among

all those eligible nonprofit organizations that have submitted conforming and timely applications. The City Manager or his designee shall notify selected organizations in writing no later than April 1st of each year.

- (e) Permits issued pursuant to this section are valid only during the calendar year issued.
- (f) Permits are not transferable to any other person or organization.

Comments from Planning Department:

Key Characteristics of Tax-Exempt Organizations:

- **Organized and Operated for Specific Purposes:** They must be organized and operated for purposes defined as exempt under the Internal Revenue Code, such as religious, charitable, scientific, literary, educational, or fostering national or international amateur sports competition.
- **Nonprofit:** Tax-exempt organizations are typically nonprofit, meaning they are not designed to generate profits for private shareholders or individuals.
- **Tax Exemption:** They are exempt from federal income tax and often from state and local taxes, like property and sales tax, depending on the jurisdiction.
- **Deductible Contributions:** Donations made to 501(c)(3) organizations are often tax-deductible for the donor, encouraging charitable giving.

Types of Tax-Exempt Organizations:

- **501(c)(3) Organizations:** This is the most common type, encompassing charitable organizations, religious institutions, educational institutions, and more.
- **Other 501(c) Organizations:** There are many other types of tax-exempt organizations under different subsections of 501(c), such as social welfare organizations (501(c)(4)), labor organizations (501(c)(5)), and social clubs (501(c)(7)).

Benefits of Tax-Exempt Status:

- Exemption from federal and potentially state and local income taxes.
- Ability to receive tax-deductible donations.
- Eligibility for certain grants and funding opportunities.
- Potential eligibility for lower postal rates.

Requirements and Regulations:

- **Application for Exemption:** Most organizations seeking tax-exempt status must apply to the IRS using specific forms.
- **Operational and Organizational Tests:** Organizations must meet specific criteria regarding their purpose, activities, and structure to qualify for and maintain tax-exempt status.
- **Compliance:** Tax-exempt organizations are subject to regulations regarding their activities, governance, and financial reporting, including annual filing requirements.
- **Restrictions:** They may face limitations on political activities and lobbying.