



CALIFORNIA
COASTAL
COMMISSION



SF Environment

Our home. Our city. Our planet.

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

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MARINE EXPIRED FLARES

**A Bay Area Pilot Project to Help
Boaters**

- ✓ **WHAT ARE MARINE FLARES?**
- ✓ **WHAT TYPE OF BOATERS NEED TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT?**
- ✓ **WHY ARE MARINE FLARES CONSIDERED TO BE HAZARDOUS WASTE?**
- ✓ **WHY MARINE EXPIRED FLARES ARE AN ISSUE IN OUR STATE?**
- ✓ **BAY AREA PILOT COLLECTION EVENTS**

WHAT ARE MARINE FLARES?

- ✓ Type of **pyrotechnic devices** that produce a brilliant light or a plume of colorful smoke as a visual distress signal to attract attention in an emergency, and to help pinpoint the boater's exact location.

The two most common types:

- ✓ **Handheld flares**- ignite on the ground
- ✓ **Aerial flares** which are fired into the air



Source: Boat Magazine

Only flares manufactured to US Coast Guard specifications are approved as visual distress signals



WHAT TYPE OF BOATERS NEED TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT?

- ✓ The U.S. Coast requires vessels **longer than 16 feet** operating on **coastal waters, the Great Lakes, territorial seas, and waters directly connected to them (up to the point where the body of water is less than two miles wide)** to carry Coast Guard approved visual distress signals, such as pyrotechnic flares.
- ✓ **Exceptions:**
 - ✓ Recreational boats <16 feet in length
 - ✓ open sailboats < 26 feet in length and not equipped with propulsion machinery
 - ✓ manually propelled boats

These vessels are only required to carry nighttime distress signals when operating from sunset to sunrise

MORE ABOUT REQUIREMENTS

The USCG requires boaters to carry a minimum of:

- ✓ **three daytime and three nighttime use** flares to meet the visual distress signal requirements.
- ✓ **only need three pyrotechnic flares** if they are approved for **both** daytime and nighttime use.
- ✓ **Red-colored** handheld and **aerial pyrotechnic flares** are approved **for both daytime and nighttime use**;
- ✓ **orange-colored** flares **are approved for daytime use only.**

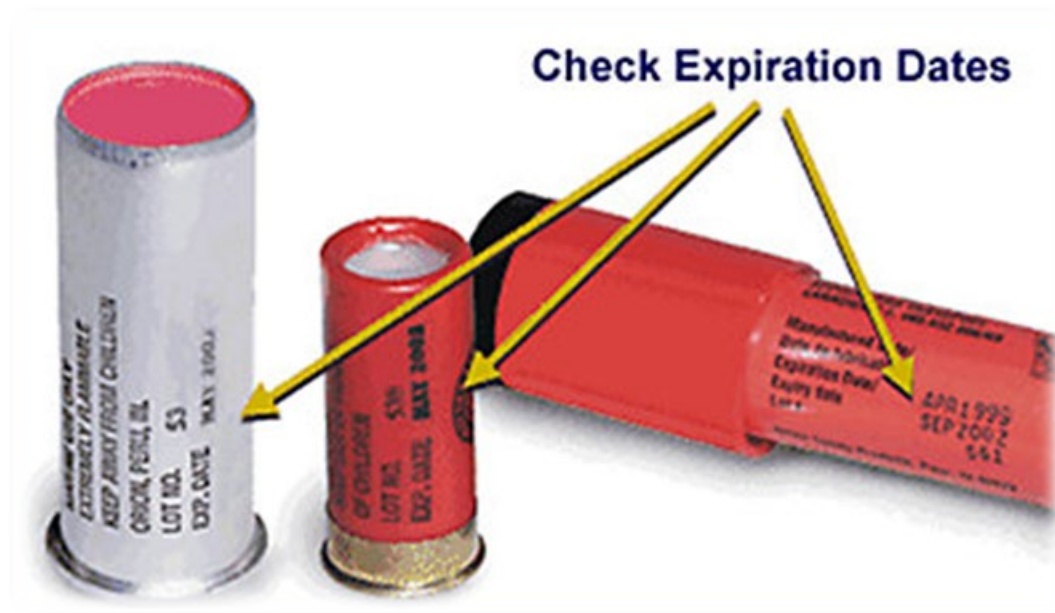


Source:
AceBoater.com

According to U.S. Coast Guard regulations, **the average shelf life for pyrotechnic devices is between 36 and 42 months from the manufacture date.**

33 CFR 175.125: "No person may use a boat unless each signal required by 175.110 is in serviceable condition and the service life of the signal, if indicated by a date marked on the signal, has not expired."

Failure to have visual distress signals, or having only expired pyrotechnic flares on a vessel, could result in a **\$1,100 fine**



Source:
Fisheriessupply.com



ARE MARINE FLARES CONSIDERED TO BE A HAZARDOUS MATERIAL?

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) classifies pyrotechnic flares that will no longer be used for their intended purpose as hazardous waste, as they are **toxic, reactive, and ignitable** (as defined by hazardous waste regulations).

Common ingredients in various types of flares include:

- **Strontium nitrate and strontium peroxide** (listed on the EPA's Toxic Substance Control Act Inventory List)
- **Potassium perchlorate and potassium nitrate** (known irritants),
- **Magnesium, and black powder** (a mixture of sulfur, charcoal, and potassium nitrate)
- **Perchlorate** is a hazardous material also recognized as a water pollutant of concern.

WHY MARINE EXPIRED FLARES ARE AN ISSUE IN OUR STATE?



Photo by Vivian Matuk (San Francisco)



Photo by Norma Lococo (Dana Point)

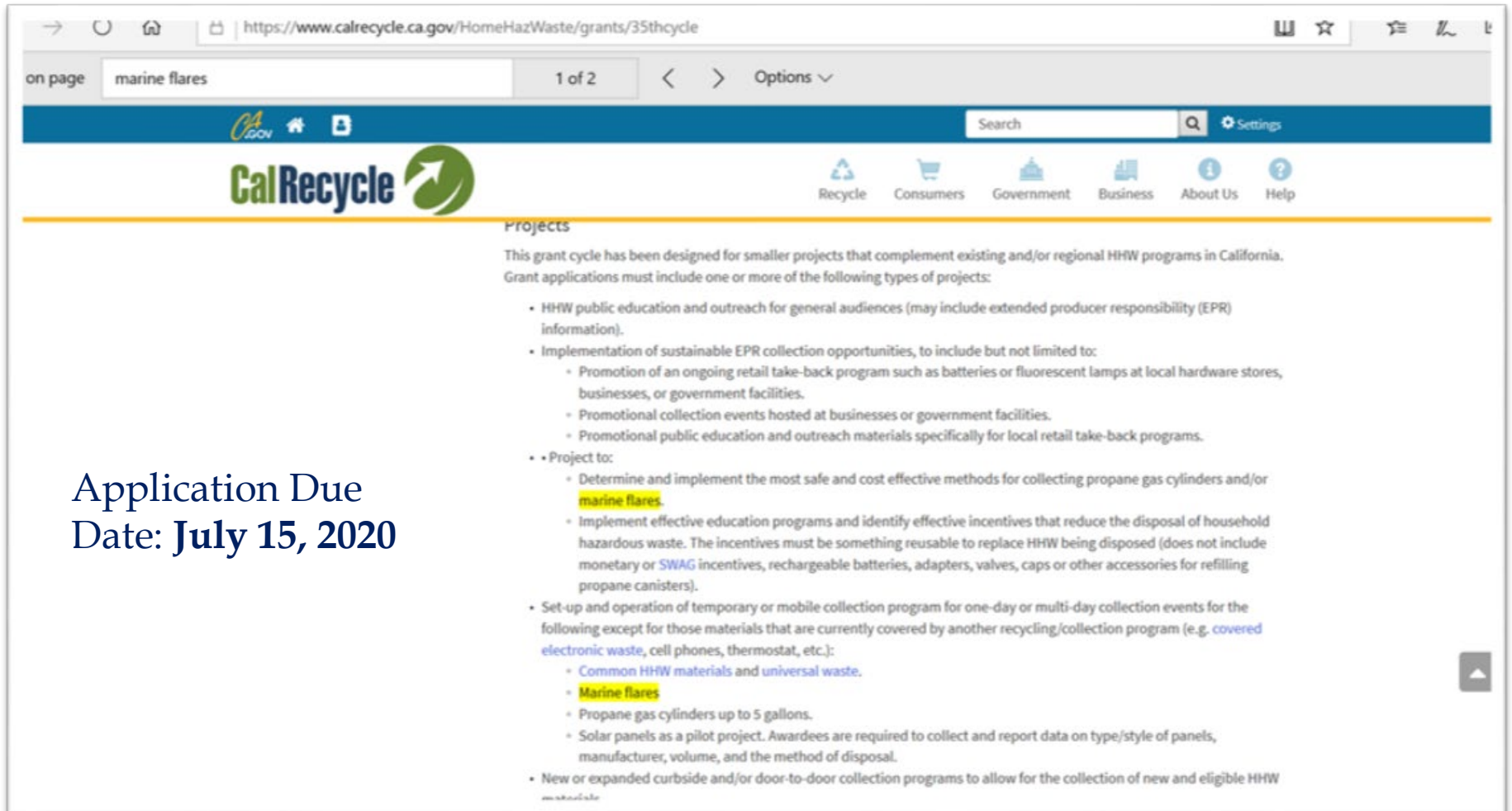
WHY MARINE EXPIRED FLARES ARE AN ISSUE IN OUR STATE?



Photo by Vivian Matuk (San Francisco)

CALRECYCLE

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE GRANT PROGRAM (FY 2020-21)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/grants/35thcycle>. The page title is "marine flares" and it is the first of two pages. The CalRecycle logo is prominent at the top left, and navigation links for Recycle, Consumers, Government, Business, About Us, and Help are at the top right. The main content area is titled "Projects" and contains the following text:

This grant cycle has been designed for smaller projects that complement existing and/or regional HHW programs in California. Grant applications must include one or more of the following types of projects:

- HHW public education and outreach for general audiences (may include extended producer responsibility (EPR) information).
- Implementation of sustainable EPR collection opportunities, to include but not limited to:
 - Promotion of an ongoing retail take-back program such as batteries or fluorescent lamps at local hardware stores, businesses, or government facilities.
 - Promotional collection events hosted at businesses or government facilities.
 - Promotional public education and outreach materials specifically for local retail take-back programs.
- Project to:
 - Determine and implement the most safe and cost effective methods for collecting propane gas cylinders and/or **marine flares**.
 - Implement effective education programs and identify effective incentives that reduce the disposal of household hazardous waste. The incentives must be something reusable to replace HHW being disposed (does not include monetary or SWAG incentives, rechargeable batteries, adapters, valves, caps or other accessories for refilling propane canisters).
- Set-up and operation of temporary or mobile collection program for one-day or multi-day collection events for the following except for those materials that are currently covered by another recycling/collection program (e.g. **covered electronic waste**, cell phones, thermostat, etc.):
 - **Common HHW materials and universal waste**.
 - **Marine flares**.
 - Propane gas cylinders up to 5 gallons.
 - Solar panels as a pilot project. Awardees are required to collect and report data on type/style of panels, manufacturer, volume, and the method of disposal.
- New or expanded curbside and/or door-to-door collection programs to allow for the collection of new and eligible HHW

Application Due
Date: July 15, 2020



**SOS
eVDSs**



Photo by Sirius Signal Co.

For disposal of expired marine flares, please contact the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (800-728-6942) or your local [Certified Unified Program Agency](http://cersapps.calepa.ca.gov/public/directory/) (<http://cersapps.calepa.ca.gov/public/directory/>) for assistance.

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