



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Fire-Rescue Department

MODEL ROCKETRY

The Fire Prevention Bureau wants the use of your model rocket to be a safe and rewarding experience. The California State Fire Marshal regulates the use of model rockets under the California Fire Code. The code gives the authority to the local fire department to grant a permit to use model rockets within the area governed by the local fire department. It is illegal to launch a model rocket without a permit from the local fire department.

The City of San Diego is fortunate to have an area designated for the public use of model rockets; the Fiesta Island area of Mission Bay Park. The Fire Prevention Bureau also issues permits for model rocket programs as part of the curriculum of some schools. These permits are issued to the school only, and they are for use by the school only.

PERMITS FOR PRIVATE USE OF MODEL ROCKETS

State law requires that the permit applicant be at least 18 years of age, and be responsible for all persons using the permit under his/her direction.

A permit application for model rockets may be requested by contacting the department by phone at 619 533-4400. The application can be mailed or faxed to you. After you have completed the application, mail or fax it back to the department. The permit will be returned to you after the permit is processed. There is no charge for the permit, which is good for one year.

Fiesta Island is under the direct management of the Park and Recreation Department. A permit is required by that department to use the island for any public use, including the launching of model rockets. The Park and Recreation Department may be contacted by phone at (619) 525-8213. There is a park use fee and there may also be additional insurance requirements for use of Fiesta Island. The permit from the Fire Prevention Bureau is NOT valid for the use of Fiesta Island without a valid permit from the Park and Recreation Department.

There is an alternative to obtaining a permit for private use of model rockets on Fiesta Island: the San Diego Model Rocket and High Power Rocketry Club. The club has all necessary permits from both the Fire Prevention Bureau and the Park and Recreation Department to use Fiesta Island. The club is permitted to use the island on an average of two times per month, generally on Saturday or Sunday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The club may be contacted at their web site at <http://www.dartrocketry.com>. The web site has information on how to join the club.