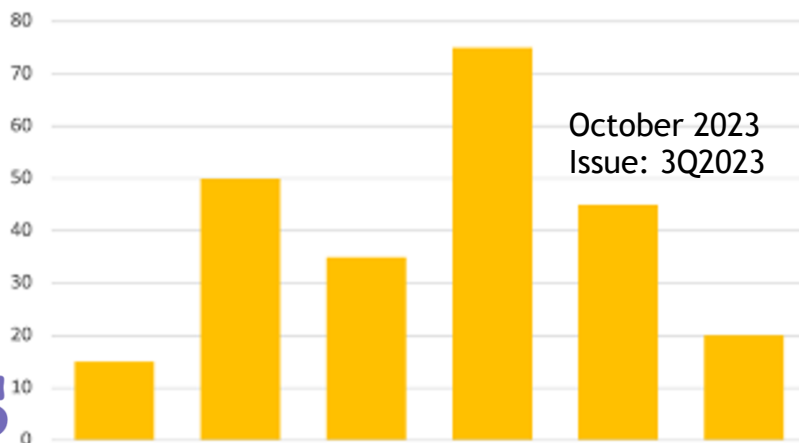




# AFSL News



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ☐ Industry Honors Tad Trout
- ☐ APA Safety and Education Foundation Release Videos
- ☐ New AFSL/BV Database
- ☐ Fire Services Training Moves to Louisiana
- ☐ William Returns, At Last

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## American Fireworks Industry Honors Tad Trout

*By Jay Howell*

Before a packed house at APA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Breakfast in Tucson, the *Joel Anderson American Fireworks Standards Laboratory Fireworks Industry Safety Award* was presented to Tad Trout in recognition of his years of service to the fireworks industry and his commitment to the safety of the American consumer.

Tad actively supports the fireworks industry in numerous ways, including his work with national and state-level standards and codes and occasionally reminding us of why AFSL was created and how the regulators continue to scrutinize the consumer fireworks industry.



*Mike Ingram, AFSL Board President and Tad Trout*

*Continued on next page*

## **Tad Trout Receives Joel Anderson Award**

*continued*



This memorial award honors Joel Anderson's vision and commitment to the industry, and to its customers, by recognizing someone in the industry who has demonstrated they share Joel's dedication to providing safe fireworks to the American consumer. In 1989, a group of fireworks industry leaders headed by Joel Anderson, formed the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory (AFSL) to ensure safe products were being imported into the United States. The formation of the AFSL was key in demonstrating to the CPSC that the industry could regulate itself and was a critical step for the safety and longevity of the industry.

## **Safety and Education Foundation Releases New Safety Videos**

*By Jay Howell*

The APA Safety and Education Foundation has created an outstanding series of Consumer Fireworks Safety videos to help spread the Foundation's safety message via social media platforms.



This series of nine videos, featuring retired Battalion Chief Dean Guccione, provides sound safety advice like “Buy From a Legal Retailer”, “Lighting Fireworks Safely”, “Reloadable Shell Safety” and much more.

To access the complete list of videos, visit <https://www.celebratesafely.org/new-safety-videos>.

## **BV Database Transition**

*By Jieli Tan*



We are excited to announce that the newly developed OneSource database went live on September 1, 2023, and ran smoothly. We received positive feedback from our shippers.

The old E-Base database was at the end of its useful life, and it was becoming increasingly difficult to resolve outage issues in a timely manner. Additionally, changes in technology and security protocols, particularly when operating in an international IP environment, had resulted in some of our members experiencing problems accessing some internet addresses. In order to ensure the level of service that we believe all AFSL members deserve, the AFSL and BV teams worked to improve system availability, reliability, and data security. Before we launched the new system, several shippers tested the system and BV provided training sessions and a user manual to all the shippers. After transferring all the data from the old E-Base system, the OneSource database was launched.

The new system improves the user interface, increases reliability and security, enhances user management, and improves reporting capabilities. In the OneSource system, users can manage their own passwords, self-register multiple users, and have varying permissions depending on roles.

With the new features of the system, we have additional opportunities to enhance the database. We are planning to develop a chemical composition screening test planning and tracking module; record re-packing of previously certified lots; place the factory registration program into the system; and implement e-filing of Certificate of Compliance. When the system is ready, BV technicians will have tablets in hand when they perform the field test, fill out the test results, and send the reports back to the office electronically. This feature will greatly improve the legibility of the test reports.

We would like to thank the shippers, who volunteered to perform the testing, for their efforts in developing the new system. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the new system, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## **Fire Services Training Wraps Up 2023 with a Trip To Louisiana**

*By Jay Howell*

We've had the opportunity to work with quite a few folks from State Fire Marshal Offices through the free training we provide on consumer fireworks. This year, we've met with teams from Georgia, South Carolina, New York, Virginia, Ohio, and Panama City Beach Florida. We'll finish up this year's training with a trip to Baton Rouge, thanks to the efforts of Deputy Chief Russell Shoultz and Jerry Wingard.

The training informs the participants on how to identify potentially illegal explosives (a.k.a. overload fireworks) and how to safely develop the evidence necessary to convince the judicial system to move forward with a case. We intend to continue to develop our relationships with State Fire Marshals across the country and expand our program in 2024.



Jerry Wingard, AFSL Director of Standards and Compliance, and Mick Dingman, Fireworks Enforcement with the Michigan State Fire Marshal's Office and AFSL Standards Committee member, training fire services personnel in Panama City Beach, Florida.



## **It's so good to be back.**

*By William Zhou*

The APA Convention in Tucson is my first trip to USA after the pandemic. I had been waiting almost 4 years and I just could not wait anymore.

Even though we have regular online meetings, email exchanges, and frequent telephone calls, it is still very exciting to meet face to face with my US colleagues, all the members and friends. I also miss the steaks, crab cakes, and Napa wines so much.

When I checked in at the APA Convention, it really touched my heart that every friend recognized me and gave me a big warm hug. I feel so happy to work in this great industry.

I participated in the AFSL Board meeting and the General membership meeting while at the convention. I can see we are more productive and efficient than before, and that enhances my confidence in my career with testing and certifying fireworks.

It's so good to be back after waiting for so long, and I am already looking forward the next trip.

For you my friend, as I write this article, the 15th Liuyang International Fireworks Festival is going on. I know now is not necessarily the right time for you to come to China, but I do believe a bright future will come soon, and I will see you in Liuyang.

