

Welland fire and emergency services remind residents that fireworks are not permitted on Labour Day weekend

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Welland, ON – Often associated with a holiday weekend, fireworks are not to be ignited on public property, including in parks and open fields in the City of Welland. Using fireworks in dry conditions and around combustible services can cause a fire and put people and property in danger. The person who lights the fireworks is responsible for the damages that may occur

Pursuant to the City's [Fireworks Bylaw](#), fireworks are only permitted on Victoria Day and Canada Day, including the three days preceding these holidays. Any person who violates the rules in the bylaw could face a fine of up to \$5,000.

"It's important to remember that what is entertaining to some can be bothersome to others," said Adam Eckhart, City of Welland fire chief. "We want people to enjoy the holiday safely, at the same time respecting the rules and their neighbours."

Residents wishing to file a complaint about fireworks while they are happening (after regular City business hours) can do so anonymously by calling 911 and asking for the fire department to respond. Details and safety concerns need to be provided to the dispatcher. During business hours, complaints can be directed to the fire department at 905-735-1700 x2304 or fire@welland.ca.

When using fireworks, it's important to remember these safety tips:

- Purchase fireworks from a reliable source; stay away from illegal explosives.
- Carefully read and follow directions on the label of fireworks packaging.
- Always have a water source such as a running garden hose or bucket of water handy.
- Never experiment with or make your own fireworks and only use them outdoors.
- Light only one firework at a time. Never set off fireworks during strong winds.
- Never re-light a dud firework. Wait 15 to 20 minutes, then soak the dud in a bucket of water.
- Never give fireworks to small children and always have an adult present.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people.
- Handlers should always wear eye protection; never have any part of your body over the firework.
- Be considerate of your neighbours and pets. Only use fireworks between the hours of dusk (approximately 9:30 to 11 p.m.), as the noise may be disturbing to those around you.

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