

Fireworks Safety Tips

From the Office of the Fire Marshal

- ⇒ To minimize the risk of fire and burn injury, the fire service does not recommend family fireworks or informal neighbourhood displays.
- ⇒ The fire service recommends attending public fireworks displays hosted by your municipality or other responsible organization.
- ⇒ If you still choose to have a family fireworks or an informal neighbourhood display, check with your local fire department about regulations regarding fireworks. Here are some important safety tips to be followed:
 - ✓ Appoint a responsible person to be in charge. Only adults who are aware of the hazards and essential safety precautions should handle and discharge fireworks.
 - ✓ Carefully read and follow the label directions on fireworks packaging.
 - ✓ Always keep a water hose or pail of water close by when discharging fireworks.
 - ✓ Discharge fireworks well away from combustible materials like buildings, trees and dry grass.
 - ✓ Keep onlookers a safe distance away, upwind from the area where fireworks are discharged.
 - ✓ Light only one firework at a time and only when they are on the ground. Never try to light a firework in your hand or re-light dud fireworks. For dud fireworks, it is best to wait 30 minutes and soak them in a bucket of water. Dispose of them in a metal container.
 - ✓ Discharge fireworks only if wind conditions do not create a safety hazard.
 - ✓ Keep sparklers away from children. Sparklers burn extremely hot and can ignite clothing, cause blindness and result in severe burns. As the sparkler wire remains hot for some minutes after burnout, it should be immediately soaked in water to avoid injury.
 - ✓ If someone gets burned, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes and seek medical attention, if necessary.
 - ✓ The Ontario fire service is strongly discouraging the public from purchasing Flying Lanterns, which resemble small, paper, hot air balloons, fuelled by an ignited wax candle. This product has the potential to land on trees, building rooftops or other property while still ignited and can result in a severe fire. The Office of the Fire Marshal believes this product poses a public fire safety hazard and strongly urges the public to refrain from purchasing and using this product.