



Public Service Announcement: For Immediate Release

FIREWORKS POSE SERIOUS RISK

NORTH BAY, June 26, 2009 – To celebrate this Canada Day, North Bay Fire & Emergency Services does not recommend the use of fireworks.

Fireworks can be extremely dangerous; each year in Ontario, fire works cause major fires and are also the cause of severe injuries. For this reason, family fireworks or informal neighbourhood displays are discouraged advises Sheri Korn of the North Bay Fire & Emergency Services.

For those still choosing to use fireworks the following important safety precautions should be followed; handling and discharge of fireworks must be done by adults only, carefully read and follow the directions on fireworks packaging, keep a water hose or pail of water available, never give sparklers to young children as they burn at a temperature of 1,200 degrees and can ignite clothing, cause blindness and severe burns.

Other important fireworks safety tips include: discharging fireworks in an open area away from buildings, trees and dry grass; lighting only one firework at a time; never trying to light a firework in your hand and keeping onlookers a safe distance away.

Canada Day is a time for celebration, not tragedy. Also, please refer to local By-Law 2000-73 which includes several restrictions including 'sales of fireworks are limited to persons 18 years of age and older and no person under the age of 18 shall set off fireworks except under the direct supervision of an adult.'

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Public Education/Fire Prevention Officer
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Please see the attached 'Fire works Safety Tips' for more information.

Bylaw: www.cityofnorthbay.ca/cityhall/bylaws/data/2000/2000 073

Fireworks Safety Tips

- ⇒ 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.