



## **Fireworks Safety Awareness Information Package**

**Discharge dates:**

**January 1st; July 1st; October 31<sup>st</sup>; only**

### **CVRD Fireworks & Discharge Regulation Bylaw No. 39**

- The goal of the Bylaw is to reduce the risk of personal injury, noise, and property damage from fireworks use.
- Minimize the impact on Livestock and pets.
- The area of jurisdiction of this Bylaw includes all electoral areas (Mill Bay/Malahat, Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill, Cowichan Bay, Cowichan Station/Sahtlam/Glenora, Cowichan Lake South/Skutz Falls, Youbou/Meade Creek, Saltair/Gulf Islands, & North Oyster/Diamond) and the Town of Ladysmith and the Town of Lake Cowichan.

### **Prohibitions**

- No person shall sell fireworks
- No person shall discharge fireworks unless in possession of an approved CVRD Fireworks Discharge Permit.
- No fireworks discharged within 500 m of a livestock property.



### **Ticket Fines**

- Sale of fireworks: \$750
- Unlawful discharge of fireworks: \$250

### **Talk to your neighbours!**

- A friendly warning to your neighbours will limit disturbance. Respectful communication goes a long way for healthy neighbourly relations.
- Have a safe and fun time!
- Check for livestock in your area

**NOTE:** Permit holders are reminded to follow all COVID-19 orders and safety precautions as mandated by the Provincial Health Officer regarding Gathering and Events. This information can be found online at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-gatherings-events.pdf>

## Handling of Fireworks

- Read the instructions.
- Keep all spectators the specified distance recommended on instructions or at least 30 meters away.
- Protect your eyes with safety glasses/goggles. Regular prescription glasses or sunglasses provide little or no protection and may contribute to an injury.
- Wear non-flammable clothing.
- Check wind direction and speed; fireworks should be lit with the prevailing wind blowing away from spectators. Do not set off aerial fireworks in strong winds.
- Keep a charged hose or bucket of water close by in the event of a malfunction or fire and soak the area when done.
- During the display, store and cover unused fireworks away from the firing area.
- Never put any part of your body over the fireworks.
- Never attempt to re-light a misfire or dud. Place in a bucket of water after 30 minutes.
- Never let children handle, play, or discharge fireworks under any circumstances.
- Never smoke while handling fireworks.
- Never store fireworks in pockets.
- Never point or throw fireworks at anyone or anything including: people, pets, cars, or buildings.
- Never hold fireworks in your hand while lighting them.
- Wait 30 minutes after the display has finished. Check the firing area for duds, clean up all debris, place in bucket of water and check it again the next morning.



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## **Bang! Boom! Fireworks are fun for people, not animals**



Along with warm summer nights come barbecues, campfires and fireworks. While the sonic-boom of pyrotechnics may be thrilling for us, it is not an enjoyable time for our furry friends. With summer now underway, the BC SPCA strongly recommends that pet guardians plan for the safety of their household animals during these fireworks festivities.

All those weird, loud explosions and bright lights can be upsetting to your pet and can even lead to harm. “the roaring thunder of fireworks can cause animals to panic, putting both pets and people in danger,” says Lorie Chortyk, BC SPCA general manager of community relations.

When dogs and cats are frightened they are more likely to run away from their homes, jump out of open windows or dart into traffic. Stressed pets can also behave out of character – even scratching or biting people says Chortyk.

The BC SPCA offers these summer fireworks safety tips:

### **Keep pets inside**

An indoor pet is a happy pet on fireworks night. To help muffle the noise and prevent animals from escaping, remember to close the windows of your home and draw the curtains. Some pets do well left in a separate room with the radio or television on to mask the sound of fireworks. Be sure to leave plenty of toys in the room for your pet so that he doesn't think he's being isolated as a punishment.

### **Identification**

Make sure your pet is wearing identification. Dogs and cats may try to run away if they feel threatened. Clear, current identification is your best chance to have them returned to you.

### **Don't console your anxious pet**

While it is natural to want to comfort your pet, it is better to use a bright, cheerful voice to send a message that things are fine. Avoid saying things like, “it's ok” or “don't be scared” in a soft or sympathetic voice. This only reinforces your pet's fearful behaviour. You can also try desensitization techniques to help reduce your dog's response to strange sounds.

### **Leave home without them**

If you think it would be fun to bring your dog to the festivities, he may not share your view. The strange sights, sounds, and crowds can cause a normally friendly dog to bite if it feels scared or threatened.

Visit [spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca) for more information on summer pet safety



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## Consumer Fireworks Safety

Consumer Fireworks are not toys. Consumer Fireworks are, in fact, powerful pyrotechnic articles and, for this reason, both their sale and purchase are regulated. The Explosives Safety and Security Branch of Natural Resources Canada routinely tests fireworks and approves those that are safe to transport, store, handle, and use.

To ensure a fun but safe family fireworks display, it is important that the simple safety procedures outlined below are followed.



**PEOPLE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD** who use fireworks must be supervised by an adult.



**NEVER** try to light a firework or hold a lit firework in your hand unless the manufacturer's instructions indicate that they are designed to be hand-held.



**CHOOSE** a wide, clear site away from all obstacles. Refer to the safety instructions on the fireworks label for minimum distances from spectators.



**LIGHT CAREFULLY:** Always light the fuse at its tip.



**DO NOT FIRE IN WINDY CONDITIONS.**



**KEEP WATER NEARBY:** Dispose of used fireworks (including debris) in a pail of water.



**READ** all instructions on the fireworks. **PLAN** the order of firing before you begin.



**WAIT** at least 30 minutes before approaching a firework that did not go off. **NEVER** try to **RELIGHT** a firework that did not go off. **NEVER** try to fix a firework that is defective.



**USE A GOOD FIRING BASE** such as a pail filled with earth or sand.



**KEEP** fireworks in a cool, dry, ventilated place, out of the reach of children.



**BURY** fireworks that do not have a base **HALFWAY** in a container of earth or sand (such as a pail, box or wheelbarrow) unless the label on the firework indicates otherwise. Set them at a 10-degree angle, pointing away from people.



**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that safety glasses be worn.

Visit [nrcan.gc.ca/explosives](http://nrcan.gc.ca/explosives) for more information

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Canada



# Family Fireworks

## Feux d'artifice familiaux

Choose an area that measures at least 30 m by 30 m and is free of obstructions.

Choisissez un emplacement exempt d'obstacles et mesurant au moins 30 m par 30 m.

1

2

Carefully read the instructions on each fireworks.  
Lisez attentivement les instructions sur chaque pi ce pyrotechnique.

3

Check wind direction and wind speed and keep a large pail of water nearby.

Surveillez la direction et l'intensité du vent et gardez un grand seau d'eau proximité.

4

For a good launching site bury the device up to half it's length in the ground or in a pail or box filled with earth or sand.

Pour un bon site de lancement, enterrez la pi ce mi-hauteur dans le sol, ou dans un seau ou une boîte remplis de terre ou de sable.

5

During the show, wear safety goggles. Pendant le spectacle, portez des lunettes de protection.

6

Keep all spectators at least 20 m away. Gardez les spectateurs plus de 20 m.

7

Do not allow children to set off fireworks. Interdisez la mise feu des pi ces pyrotechniques aux enfants.

8

Never attempt to set off fireworks that have not fired. After an attempt, leave them alone in a safe place for 30 minutes.  
Ne tentez jamais une pi ce qui n'a pas fonctionné. Attendez 30 minutes avant de la placer dans un seau rempli d'eau.

9

Do not put fireworks in your pockets, do not throw them, and do not keep them in your hands.

Ne mettez jamais de pi ces pyrotechniques dans vos poches, ne les lancez pas et ne les gardez pas dans vos mains.



Natural Resources Canada

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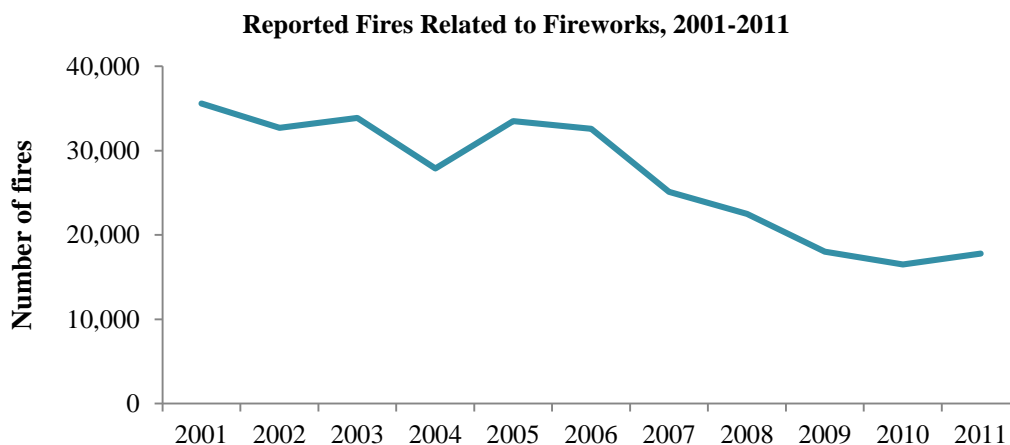


## Fireworks Fact Sheet

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### Size of the Fireworks-Related Fire Problem

- In 2011, fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 reported fires, including 1,200 structure fires, 400 vehicle fires, and 16,300 outside and other fires.
- These fires resulted in an estimated 40 civilian injuries and \$32 million in direct property damage, with no reported fire deaths.
- On Independence Day in a typical year, fireworks account for two out of five of all reported fires, more than any other cause of fire.



### Risk of Private Fireworks Use

Using 2000-2010 data, the risk of fire death relative to hours of usage is higher for fireworks than for cigarettes, making fireworks the riskiest consumer product.

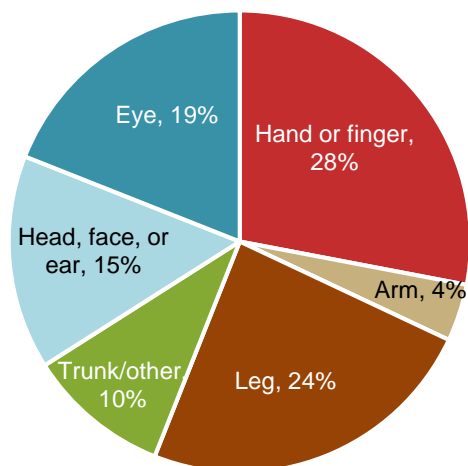
- The risks with fireworks are not limited to displays, public or private. Risks also exist wherever fireworks are manufactured, transported, stored or sold.
- “Safe and sane” fireworks are neither. Fountains, novelties, and sparklers are designed to throw off showers of hot sparks. Temperatures may exceed 1200°F.

***NFPA is strongly opposed to any consumer use of fireworks.***

***NFPA encourages people to enjoy public displays of fireworks that comply with NFPA 1123.***

**FACT:** The following four states have banned access by the public to all fireworks: **Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York**

**Figure 1.**  
**2018 Fireworks-Related Injuries\***  
**by Part of Body Injured**

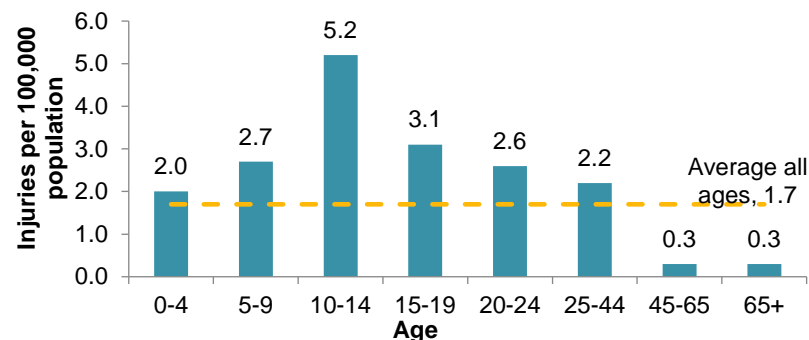


\*Based on injuries during the month around July 4.  
Source: CPSC's 2018 Fireworks Annual Report by Tu and Ng.

More than one-third (36 percent) of the victims of fireworks-related injuries in this period were under the age of 15. Only 8 percent of the injured were 45 years of age or older. Figure 2 shows that children aged 10–14 had the highest rate of fireworks-related injury.

It is important to remember that the individual injured was not always the individual using the fireworks. The examples of injuries to actively involved individuals and to those nearby come from CPSC's National Electronic Injury Surveillance Systems<sup>2</sup> 2018 data.

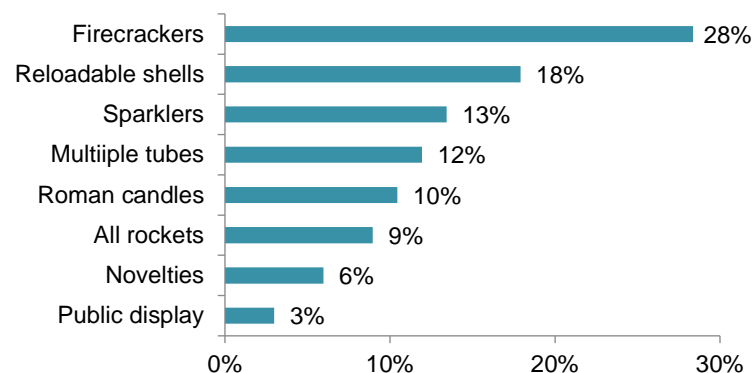
**Figure 2.**  
**Fireworks-Related Injury Rates\* per 100,000**  
**Population by Age of Victim 2018**



\*Based on injuries during the month around July 4.  
Source: CPSC's 2018 Fireworks Annual Report by Tu and Ng.

Figure 3 shows that many fireworks-related injuries were caused by fireworks that are legal in most states.

**Figure 3.**  
**2018 Fireworks-Related Injuries\***  
**by Type of Fireworks**  
**(Unknowns Allocated)**



\*Based on injuries during the month around July 4.  
Source: CPSC's 2018 Fireworks Annual Report by Tu and Ng.