

# FIREWORKS SAFETY

If you are having a family fireworks display, it is important to know that the use of fireworks is dangerous and can cause injury or property damage. The Hamilton Fire Department reminds residents choosing to have a family fireworks display that the Fireworks By-law only allows them to be set off on Canada Day or the two days immediately before or following Canada Day. In addition, you may only set off fireworks on your own property; setting off fireworks on or over roadways or in parks is not permitted.

We urge you to follow these important fireworks safety tips to ensure that everyone in attendance enjoys the show safely:

- Purchase, handling and discharge of fireworks must only be done by adults, 18 years of age and older. Appoint one adult to be in charge of setting them off, who knows about the hazards of fireworks and the essential safety precautions.
- Carefully read and follow the label instructions on fireworks packaging, including those for required clearances and set-backs.
- Choose a clear, open space, away from buildings and combustible materials. Also, check that there are no overhead wires or tree branches.
- Always keep a water hose or pail of water close by.
- Set up a 'safe zone' where the fireworks will be discharged. Keep all spectators, children and pets out of, and upwind from, this area. The label on the firework will tell you how far it will reach – the safe zone should be at least this distance.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box, away from the activation area, taking them out one at a time.
- If not equipped with a base, firmly set the firework at least half its length in a bucket of sand or dirt, angled slightly away from spectators, checking the wind direction and speed before lighting.
- Discharge fireworks only if wind conditions do not create a safety hazard.
- Never lean over a firework at any time and keep hair and clothes away from fire sources.
- Light only one firework at a time and ignite only at the tip of the fuse.
- Never try to light a firework in your hand or hold a lit firework.
- Use a flashlight to see what you are doing.
- If a firework is a 'dud' or misfires, approach it with caution. Never try to re-light a firework. Leave it for at least 30 minutes and then place it in a bucket of water.

Supervise the use of all sparklers, especially with children. Sparklers burn extremely hot and can ignite clothing, cause blindness and result in severe burns. Children should have only one lit sparkler at a time and should never wave or point the sparkler in the direction of other people. Sparklers may remain hot for several minutes after burnout and should be immediately soaked in water to avoid injury. If someone is burned, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes and seek medical attention, if necessary.

For additional information on fire safety, visit our website at: <https://www.hamilton.ca/fire>, email us at [fire.prevention@hamilton.ca](mailto:fire.prevention@hamilton.ca) or contact the Hamilton Fire Department – Fire Prevention Division by calling 905 546-2424 ext. 1380.