

## **FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS**

Fireworks are a popular way to celebrate special occasions. Manufactures have developed a variety of 'low hazard' fireworks readily available for family use.

However fireworks make their loud noise and bright colors by explosion and fire and need to be handled safely to avoid injuries to users and bystanders.

Following are some **TIPS** for Neebing residents about safe handling of and the rules around use of fireworks in the community:

- **Fireworks are an explosive product** –only purchase close to time of use
- **Fireworks should be stored -away from any fire sources** or other products such as **gasoline, propane and oil** that could contribute to fire intensity if a fire starts.
- **Fireworks should be used outdoors only** – inside pyrotechnic displays require professional planning, operation and approval
- **Ensure a Secure Base for Fireworks** – **concrete, sand** or other base that is not flammable and will hold the fireworks securely when they ignite
- **Inspect Area of Use** – ensure there are **no flammables** such as dry grass or gasoline that could be ignited by the fireworks.
- **Ensure there is adequate clear space** - for fire works to be ignited, and viewed. An open area > **100 feet** with cut grass or open water are the best to avoid fires.
- **Weather** – Be prepared to cancel or **reschedule** your display if **dry or windy**.
- **Viewer Safety** – ensure your audience is safe. For family fireworks generally a minimum of **20 feet** for simple ground displays (burning school house) and **40 feet** for aerial displays.
- **Be Prepared** – Always have a charged **garden hose** or **bucket of water** handy to putting out fires or dousing duds and spent fireworks
- **Shooter Safety** – **One person** should be the '**designated**' shooter with responsibility for viewer safety, ensuring fireworks are properly set up and cleaned up and for igniting the fireworks. That person should wear **safety glasses** or goggles, use a **long handled lighter** and **abstain from alcohol** prior to the igniting the display.
- **Never Relight Fireworks** – '**Dud**' fireworks that do not ignite properly should be left for **20 minutes** then **doused** with water before being handled
- **High Hazard Fireworks** – There are special rules and 'shooters' must be licensed when using high hazard commercial grade fireworks. Make sure you are purchasing **family fireworks** if you are planning your own display and make sure the shooter is licensed and the fire department has issued a permit for your event if you are using high hazard fireworks.
- **Municipal Bylaws for Fireworks** – In the Municipality of Neebing Firework displays are regulated by Bylaw #325-1994. The bylaw requires that all 'high hazard firework displays and all 'low hazard' firework displays not scheduled for Victoria Day of Canada Day celebrations require a Fire Department Inspection & permit issued by the fire department. The display shall be held on owned property or with permission of the owner.

**For additional information contact:**

**Municipality of Neebing - Emergency Services at 474-5331**