

## 2009 Fireworks Permit Application Package

Permit applications for consumer fireworks events must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

To apply, you will need to submit the following:

- Valid Certificate of completion of the Municipality of Saanich "Fireworks Safety Course"
- A completed Permit application form (Schedule "A")
- If the consumer fireworks event is to occur on property that is not owned by the applicant or is on property owned or controlled by the Municipality, a completed property owner agreement (Schedule "C")
- If you have been engaged to discharge the fireworks for someone else, a completed organizer/sponsor agreement (Schedule "D")
- Proof of age
- \$10 permit fee – Cash or Cheque

### Fireworks Safety Course

As a condition of the permit, the Fireworks Safety Course is mandatory for those wishing to use consumer fireworks. The Saanich Fire Department offers this course as a public safety initiative. Fireworks Permit applicants must choose and attend **one** of the Fireworks Safety Course workshops offered below.

Pre-registration for the workshops is required. Register by e-mail: [fireprevention@saanich.ca](mailto:fireprevention@saanich.ca). You must include your name, phone number and the number for the Workshop you wish to attend. Or contact the Saanich Fire Prevention Division: 250-475-5500.

#### Fireworks Safety Course Workshop Schedule

Workshop No.	Day	Date	Time	Location
1	Wednesday	October 14	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Saanich Fire Department Training Centre Station No.1, 760 Vernon Avenue
2	Wednesday	October 21	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Saanich Fire Department Training Centre Station No.1, 760 Vernon Avenue
3	Sunday	October 25	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Saanich Fire Department Kirby Room Station No.1, 760 Vernon Avenue
4	Friday	October 30	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Saanich Fire Department Training Centre Station No.1, 760 Vernon Avenue

Fireworks permits will be issued to qualified applicants immediately following the successful completion of the Fireworks Safety Course and payment of the \$10 permit fee.

**Payment is to be made by cash or cheque only.**

## SAANICH FIREWORKS REGULATIONS 2009

The Municipality of Saanich has adopted a Fireworks Regulation Bylaw No. 8865 which regulates the sale, possession, and discharge of fireworks in the community throughout the year. The purpose of the bylaw is to mitigate the significant risks to persons and property that occur with the presence and use of fireworks in the community.

This information sheet will assist you in understanding how fireworks are regulated and how to meet the bylaw requirements so that you and your family can enjoy your special occasions safely and legally.

Please refer to Bylaw No. 8865 "*To Regulate the Possession of Fireworks and Limit the Discharge of Fireworks*" for the complete regulations and permit application requirements. Bylaw can be found at [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca).

This package contains:

- A summary of regulations pertaining to Consumer Fireworks;
- Minimum fireworks safety recommendations

### Summary

Fireworks fall into three categories: Consumer, Display, and Pyrotechnic Special Effects. Generally speaking, Consumer Fireworks are low hazard fireworks used for recreation, such as Halloween. Display Fireworks are high hazard fireworks used in larger community events such as Canada Day celebrations. Pyrotechnic Special Effects Fireworks are high hazard fireworks used in the entertainment and film industry.

Consumer Fireworks are restricted in that:

- No one may possess or discharge fireworks without a permit;
- Permit holders must be 18 years of age or older;
- Parents or guardians of any person under 18 years of age shall not allow that person to possess or discharge fireworks;
- Discharge is limited to October 31<sup>st</sup> between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.; and
- Permit holders must discharge the fireworks in a manner that does not increase the risk of physical injury to any person or damage to any public or private property.

There is a complete ban on:

- The sale or trading of fireworks and firecrackers anywhere in the Municipality; and
- The possession and the discharge of firecrackers and prohibited fireworks, including modified fireworks.

The Bylaw may be enforced by the Fire Chief, fire department personnel, bylaw enforcement officers and the Police Department. Consequences for violations are:

- Rescinding of a permit;
- Confiscation of fireworks;
- Tickets with fines between \$100.00 and \$500.00.

Again, please refer to the complete Bylaw to ensure that you are aware of all requirements and prohibitions regarding fireworks in the Municipality of Saanich. The Bylaw is in effect and enforced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year-round.

# Fireworks Safety Recommendations

When planning your event, please follow these common sense precautions and reduce the risk of injury or damage to people and property in the vicinity of your fireworks:

- ✓ Only persons 18 years of age and older, with a permit, may possess or discharge fireworks.
- ✓ Only low-hazard (consumer) fireworks are to be used by the general public.
- ✓ Firecrackers and bottle rockets are prohibited throughout Canada by federal regulation.
- ✓ Modification of fireworks is prohibited.
- ✓ A safe outdoor area should be chosen for discharging fireworks: a bare area of ground away from buildings, overhead obstructions (wires), trees, vehicles, dry grass and other flammables (firewood, fuel) is ideal.
- ✓ Spectators should watch from a safe distance of at least 20 metres.
- ✓ A bucket, large box or wheelbarrow filled with soil or sand makes a good firing base to secure fireworks before lighting.
- ✓ A lighting stick should be used to light fireworks, rather than matches or a lighter.
- ✓ A large bucket of water or sand, or a garden hose should be ready at the firing site.
- ✓ “Duds” should be left untouched for a minimum of 30 minutes.
- ✓ Dispose of spent firework casings in a container of water.

## Remember the 3 “Nevers”

- ✓ **Never** point or throw fireworks at anyone or anything – people, pets, cars, or buildings.
- ✓ **Never** hold fireworks in your hand while lighting them.
- ✓ **Never** attempt to re-light or move fireworks that fail to go off.

Learn more about safety at the upcoming Fireworks Safety Courses that will be offered in the Municipality of Saanich.

The Saanich Fire Department and the Office of the Fire Commissioner encourage you to enjoy display fireworks events put on by trained personnel, rather than use consumer fireworks. These public events decrease the risk of personal injury and property damage that may result from accidental or improper use of consumer fireworks.

*“Have a safe and happy time!”*