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**FIRE SERVICES BYLAW 2023-17**

# FIRE PERMITTING UPDATES

1. Remove permit requirement for recreational fire pits
2. Enhance safe use of Consumer Fireworks
  - i. Remove Labour Day as third day
  - ii. Limit use of Fireworks to Lots greater than 4ha.
  - iii. Introduce Vendor Permit for selling fireworks 14 days prior to Canada Day and Labour Day
3. Limit burning in Industrial Land Use Districts to provincially regulated incinerators
4. Enhance language to support cost recovery of incident response
5. Reinforce provincial lock box requirements for commercial properties
6. Delegate Council power to appoint Fire Guardians to the Fire Chief

# CURRENT PERMIT CONDITIONS

1. All possession, handline, discharge, fire, or set-off of fireworks or pyrotechnics shall be conducted in accordance with safe practices outlined in the National Fire Code – 2019 Alberta Edition and by Natural Resources Canada Explosives Regulatory Division;
2. Fireworks shall not be discharged if wind speeds exceed 15km/hour. Fireworks may not be discharged during a fire ban or fire restriction;
3. Neighbouring landowners whose properties or livestock may be affected by fireworks discharge must be notified of the date and time of intended discharge, in writing, no less than 72 hours in advance of the proposed display;
4. Fire fighting equipment must be in the immediate discharge area. Equipment can include fire extinguishers, pails of water, and garden tools;

# CURRENT PERMIT CONDITIONS

5. Ground fireworks must be positioned out of the firing range of aerial fireworks and in a location where there is no dry grass or combustible materials on the ground beneath them. The area must be thoroughly wet down immediately before the fireworks are discharged;
6. Fireworks may not be discharged within 10 metres of any building, shelter or motor vehicle, 30 metres of any property line, or 200 metres of any place where explosives or flammable liquids are stored;
7. Fireworks may not be discharged from a highway, road allowance, public beach, over a body of water or park;
8. Fireworks are explosives. Ensure you read and follow the instructions, cautions and warnings on each firework. Fireworks permit holders must follow all terms and conditions outlined on the permit

# CURRENT PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

## Display Details

Please describe location and time that fireworks will be discharged: \*

Please describe safety precautions and mitigation of any fire or life safety risk: \*

Please describe any equine or other animals on nearby property that may be adversely affected by the fireworks display: \*

# BUSINESS CONCERNS

- Would like to sell all year long
- Four hectares (10 acres) is too restrictive for minimum land size
- There are a variety of products and sizes sold that produce different sizes of effects. Risk and impact to neighbours is different depending on products purchased

# POTENTIAL AMENDMENT – 4 HECTARE LOT SIZE

## Administration Proposed Amendment:

- Amend Section 50 as follows:
  - No **Consumer** Fireworks shall be used or discharged within Restricted Burn Areas having a lot size less than **2** hectares.
- 1. Provides room for display fireworks permits on smaller lots where a licensed professional conducts the display, carries additional insurance information, and is required to submit an emergency and site plan prior to the event.
- 2. Reduces lot size to limit to 2 hectares (~5 acres) for consumer Fireworks.

# POTENTIAL AMENDMENT – ELIGIBLE SALE TIMEFRAME

Two Options proposed by Administration:

1. Strike Section 53 and update subsequent section numbering
  - a) ~~No Person shall sell Consumer Fireworks within the County, except on the 14 days immediately preceding New Year's Day and Canada Day.~~
2. Amend Section 53:
  - a) No Person shall sell Consumer Fireworks within the County, except on the ~~14~~ 30 days immediately preceding New Year's Day and Canada Day.



# PRODUCT SIZE DIFFERENCES

- Administration does not support the classification or segregation by land use or by individual products beyond the federal classification system of Consumer Fireworks or Display Fireworks.

# RESIDENTIAL FIRE PITS NOT REQUIRING A PERMIT

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw
a minimum of three (3) meters from buildings, property lines and combustible materials;	a minimum of 3 meters clearance is maintained from any building, property line, or other combustible material when measured from the nearest fire pit edge in an area free of dry grass, brush, or combustible soil (peat moss);
N/A	the fire pit height does not exceed 600 millimeters when measured from the surrounding grade to the top of the pit opening;
N/A	the opening does not exceed 1.5 meter in width or diameter when measured between the widest points or outer edges;
N/A	is set upon or built into the bare ground or on a non-combustible material such as brick, stone or concrete;
Constructed of bricks, cement blocks, heavy gauge metal or other suitable non-combustible material components	the fire pit has enclosed sides made from brick, concrete blocks, heavy gauge metal, or other non-combustible material that is acceptable to the Fire Chief.
Has a spark arrestor mesh screen of thirteen (13) mm expanded metal to contain sparks over fire at all times	N/A. Recommended practice.
N/A	is not located over underground utility services or below overhead wires
Flame height does not exceed Ninety (90) cm above the fire pit	Flame height does not exceed 1 meter above the fire pit

# FIREWORKS REGIONAL COMPARATORS

Municipality	Consumer Fireworks Rules
Leduc County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No permit required.</li> <li>Cannot discharge within 30m of a road, building, trailer, vehicle, stand of trees, brush, or power lines. Also not allowed on public beach, MR land, or in general unsafe manner. Recommendation is to advise neighbours with livestock or pets</li> </ul>
Sturgeon County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit required. Lot must be greater than 1 ha.</li> </ul>
Lac Ste Anne County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No permit required.</li> <li>Not allowed in residential subdivisions, campgrounds, MR/ER lands, or hamlets.</li> </ul>
Yellowhead County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not allowed except for large group or public celebrations with permit.</li> </ul>
Strathcona County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need a permit to sell or discharge. Not allowed in hamlets.</li> </ul>
Rockyview County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consumer Fireworks allowed with permit all year long.</li> <li>Cannot be discharged within 10m of any building, vehicle, or property line.</li> <li>Need written permission and signatures from all adjacent property owners as well as site diagram.</li> </ul>
City of Edmonton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not allowed</li> </ul>
Spruce Grove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot buy or sell without a permit and a Fireworks Operator Certificate.</li> <li>No consumer fireworks allowed in town.</li> </ul>
Stony Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit Required to purchase, sell, and discharge fireworks all year long.</li> </ul>

# PROPOSED MOTIONS

1. That Bylaw 2023-17 receive second reading.
2. That Bylaw 2023-17 receive third and final reading.