

September 3, 2019

Proposed Fireworks Bylaw 001/2019

The proposed Fireworks Bylaw is intended to ensure that fireworks are used safely and responsibly by persons with proper education and training relating to the use and sale of explosive materials.

1. Why is a bylaw required?

Since May 2019, The National Fire Code - 2019 Alberta Edition no longer provides specific regulations for the sale and use of fireworks as previous fire codes did. This now falls under the NRC “Explosives Act” and its regulations. Therefore, a bylaw is required to regulate fireworks for the safety of residents.

The Explosive Act and its regulation will include display fireworks (used by professionals for events such as Canada Day), pyrotechnics (used for stage shows and movie effects), as well as consumer fireworks used by the public.

2. Why is this bylaw coming to Council?

Fireworks has been included in the Alberta Fire Code for the last 35 years. As of May 2019 Fireworks are no longer regulated under the 2019 National Fire Code “Alberta Edition”. The City of Leduc Fire Services proposes a new bylaw which will continue to regulate the use, storage and sale of fireworks in the City of Leduc as in the past.

The following information pertains to the proposed Fireworks Bylaw (001/2019):

Buying and Using Fireworks

3. Does the Fireworks Bylaw put a ban on fireworks?

No. The intent of the proposed Fireworks Bylaw is to ensure that fireworks are used safely and responsibly by qualified persons with proper training that is inline with the Explosives Act and its regulation.

4. What types of fireworks are allowed?

The following are allowed for use in the City of Leduc:

- Consumer fireworks (low-hazard): a Fireworks Permit is required and will only be granted to qualified persons as per the Explosives Act.
- Pyrotechnics (Special Effects): a Fireworks Permit is required and will only be granted to qualified persons as per the Explosives Act.
- Display fireworks (high-hazard): a Fireworks Permit is required and will only be granted to qualified persons as per the Explosives Act.

- Sparklers: a permit is not required for private citizens to use sparklers.

Selling Fireworks

5. Are fireworks allowed to be sold?

The sale of fireworks will be prohibited within the City of Leduc as has been the practice for the past 35 years.

6. Does the public need a permit to use fireworks?

Permits will be required as follows:

- Display Fireworks and Pyrotechnics - A permit to purchase and discharge may be issued to qualified persons as per the Explosives Act for special events (for example: Canada Day, etc.)
- Consumer Fireworks - A permit to purchase and discharge may be issued to qualified persons as per the Explosives Act for a special event only (for example: wedding, anniversary, etc.)
- Sparklers - A permit is not required to purchase or discharge sparklers.
- Most permits are issued within two business days.

Permits

7. How do I get a permit?

Requests for a permit can be submitted to Emergency Services - Fire Prevention Branch at fireservices@leduc.ca

Every person applying for a Fireworks Permit must provide:

- a completed application as per Natural Resources Canada “Display Fireworks Manual”;
- any fees required;
- any additional required permits or approvals;
- any additional information required by The City of Leduc.

8. What does a Fire Safety Codes Officer consider in regards to approval of a fireworks display?

Applicants should be aware that some of the conditions that Fire Safety Codes Officers consider can change up to the date of the event (fire bans, weather conditions, etc.). Other requirements can vary depending on the type of display. The following are typically considered with every application:

- Description of fireworks including type, size and quantity.

- Location and position of the fireworks ramp and mortars.
- Direction of firing.
- Fallout zone for the fireworks.
- Separation distances to the public and vulnerable features.
- Significant ground features, roads, public right of way, buildings or structures, overhead obstructions, parking areas and spectator viewing areas.
- Security personnel to control the fallout zone.
- Traffic control plans.
- Location of emergency vehicles.
- Qualifications of the operator.
- Permission of the landowner and proof of liability insurance.

9. Do I need a permit to sell sparklers?

No, a permit is not required to sell sparklers.

10. How much does a permit cost?

The following fees apply when applying for a permit to use fireworks:

Service	Fee
Per permit	\$125
Per inspection	\$116.50
Per inspection (after hours)	\$233.00

Safe use, storage and disposal

11. I want to report unsafe or illegal use of fireworks. Who should I contact?

If someone is using fireworks or firecrackers illegally or in an unsafe manner, please report to the City of Leduc Enforcement Services by calling 9-1-1, non emergency 780-980-7200.

12. I have fireworks at home and did not know I was supposed to have a permit. What should I do?

Under the proposed bylaw, you may not store fireworks without a Fireworks Permit. If you have fireworks at home, the most important thing is to ensure they are disposed of safely. Fireworks are explosives and improperly storing fireworks could lead to serious problems in the event of a fire.

Please contact the City of Leduc Fire Services at 780-980-8475 (during business hours) to enquire about dropping off your fireworks for safe disposal.

13. What happens if I do not follow the rules?

All reported unsafe or illegal activity with fireworks will be investigated. Education is the preferred means for compliance. Fines may be issued for repeat offenders and serious life safety concerns.

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For more information, please contact:

Deputy Chief Gerry Kelly
Fire Marshal
The City of Leduc
780-980-8475