

October 15, 2018

Love fireworks? Have a blast with firefighters, get a permit for Halloween

If a fantastic fireworks display is what you're after this Halloween, join the fun with local firefighters.

The Campbell River No.2 Hall Firefighters Association hosts this annual family-friendly event with fireworks, hot chocolate, and hotdogs by donation. The fireworks begin at 8 p.m. at the No.2 Hall (261 Larwood Rd.).

Thinking of staging your own fireworks event? Permits are required for fireworks for Halloween and any other occasion. Permits must be purchased two weeks prior to use. Cost is \$40 per permit.

Applications are part of the City's Fireworks Regulation Bylaw (online at campbellriver.ca / Your City Hall / Bylaw Search). Contact the Campbell River Fire Department at 675-13th Ave. between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

For a safe and memorable fireworks experience, follow these simple safety guidelines.

- Know and follow the fireworks regulations.
- Follow all instructions provided with fireworks.
- Choose an appropriate location to maximize safety.
- After the show is over, safely dispose of fireworks packaging, ensuring there are no smoldering remnants that could cause a fire.
- Possession and discharge of firecrackers, prohibited fireworks such as after-market modified fireworks, and using fireworks without a permit is prohibited and subject to fines.

Don't play with fire!

"Decorations are the first thing to ignite in 900 reported home fires in Canada each year. Two of every five of these fires were started by a candle," says fire chief Thomas Doherty. "Prevent these kinds of fires by keeping flammable materials away from heat sources and using battery operated candles rather than real flames."

- If you use a real candle inside jack-o-lanterns, use extreme caution.
- Always supervise children around lit candles and keep them away from flames.
- Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands and rolling over and over to extinguish flames.)
- Use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter.
- Place jack-o-lanterns well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- Keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Make sure all home smoke alarms are working.
- If your little monsters are going to Halloween parties, make sure they know to plan how they would get out in an emergency.
- If you're lighting a recreational fire, keep it within the permitted size (no larger than 60 centimetres – 24 inches – across), and make sure the fire is fully extinguished when you wrap up the fun.

Halloween safety – see and be seen when stepping out!

- Incorporate a flashlight, glow stick and reflectors into costumes.
- Walk against traffic, in well-lit areas, and use sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Make sure mask eyeholes are large enough.
- Minimize the chance of children tripping by avoiding long, trailing fabric for costumes.
- Report street light concerns.

“With shorter days and darker, stormier weather, Campbell River pedestrians and drivers rely even more on street lights,” says Drew Hadfield, the City’s transportation manager. “City crews have completed the annual fall street lights inspection and are coordinating repairs where necessary. If you spot a street light that’s flickering or out, please let us know by contacting the Dogwood Operations Centre.”

Reach the Dogwood Operations Centre by email to dogwood.centre@campbellriver.ca or telephone 250-286-4033.

###

Media contacts:

Thomas Doherty, Fire Chief
Drew Hadfield, Director of Operations

250-286-6266
250-286-5783