

What You Need to Know About Fireworks in the Town of Westlock

Fireworks Application Package



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FIREWORKS IN THE TOWN OF WESTLOCK

Fireworks are used world-wide to provide our holiday celebrations with fascinating colors, sounds, and special effects. Despite their appeal however, fireworks present various safety hazards when they are used carelessly or by untrained persons. When planning your celebrations this year, please use extreme care if you plan to operate fireworks.

What Are The Different Types Of Fireworks?

“Consumer Fireworks” means **low-hazard fireworks** for recreation that are classified under Class 7, Division 2, Subdivision 2 of the Explosives Act, and the explosives regulations made under, and includes but is not limited to, firework showers, fountains, golden rain, lawn lights, pinwheels, roman candles, volcanoes, sparklers and other similar devices, but does not include Christmas crackers, and paper containing not more than 25/100 grain of explosives on average per cap, devices for use with such caps, safety flares or marine rockets.

“Display Fireworks” means **high-hazard fireworks** for recreation that are classified Class 7, Division 2, and Subdivision 1 under the Explosive Act. The explosives regulation made there under, and includes, but are not limited to, rockets, serpents, shells, bombshells, tourbillion, maroons, large wheels, bouquets, barrages, bombardos, waterfalls, fountains, batteries, illuminations, set pieces and kitchens. These types of fireworks are not allowed for sale in a retail setting and require a licensed Pyro-Technician to discharge.

“Pyrotechnic Devices” means an authorized explosive of a class set out in Section 6 of the Explosives Act, Explosives Regulations (C.R.C. c. 599), that is made, manufactured or used to produce a pyrotechnic theatrical effect in connection with a motion picture, theatre or television production or as a performance before a live audience.

“Prohibited Fireworks” includes but is not limited to firecrackers, cigarette loads or kings exploding matches, sparkling matches, ammunition for miniature tie clip, cuff link, or keychain pistols, auto alarms or jokers, cherry bombs, M-80 and silver salutes and flash crackers; throw down and step on torpedoes, and crackling balls; exploding golf balls, stink bombs and smoke bombs, tear gas pens and launchers, party peppers and table bombs, table rockets and battle sky-rockets, fake firecrackers and other trick devices or practical jokes, as included in the list of Prohibited Fireworks as published from time to time under the Explosives Act.

Do I Need a Permit?

A permit is required for **Purchase, Possession and Discharge** of Fireworks within the Town of Westlock. Permits are available free of charge Monday—Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Any failure to obtain a permit or to follow the permit conditions could result in the cost of any damage or fire suppression activity being assessed against you.

What happens if I fail to Purchase a Permit?

You may be fined for a violation under the Town of Westlock Fireworks Bylaw #2010-17. Fines range from \$250.00 to \$10,000.00.

What if I Want To Discharge Fireworks in The County of Westlock?

You must obtain a Permit to Discharge from the County of Westlock. If you wish to buy fireworks in the Town of Westlock, you must then obtain a Permit to Purchase from the Town.

Are There Any Safety Regulations Regarding the Discharge of Fireworks?

At a Minimum:

- ✓ **You Must** read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ **You Must** have a fire extinguisher with a minimum of 2-A rating (or suitable water supply) available for immediate use at the discharge area.
- ✓ **You Must** wet down the ground where you will discharge ground level fireworks immediately before the discharge.
- ✓ **You Must** aim projectile fireworks no more than 15 degrees off perpendicular.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ **You Must** also have the consent of the property owner or occupant, if it is not you, and any neighbouring property owners where there is a possibility the debris from the discharge could fall on their lands.
- ✓ Fireworks **may not** be discharged if the wind speed is 12 km/hour or more.
- ✓ Fireworks **may not** be discharged during a Fire Ban.
- ✓ **You Must** comply with any other conditions specified in the Permit.



What Happens If I fail to observe Safety Regulations or Obey the Conditions of the Permit?

Any failure to follow the permit conditions will result in cancellation of the Permit and could result in the cost of any damage or fire suppression activity being assessed against the Permit Holder.

How Old Do I Have To Be to Obtain a Permit?

Permits will only be issued to people 18 years of age or older and there must be at least one **Adult** present during the discharge of fireworks.

Where Can I Discharge Fireworks?

Fireworks may not be discharged within 10 metres of any building, tent, trailer, canvas shelter or motor vehicle or 200 metres of any place where explosives or flammable liquids or combustible liquids may be manufactured or stored.

The Fire Chief has the final authority to allow or not allow a Fireworks display in the Town of Westlock.

Do I need a Safety Plan?

Yes. A safety plan is required and must be approved by the Fire Chief prior to a permit being issued.

TOWN OF WESTLOCK FIREWORKS APPLICATION



PART ONE - General

Section A – Purchase / Possess (For Possession or Purchase of Any Fireworks)

Applicant Name:	
Applicant Address:	
Applicant Email:	
24 Hour Contact Number(S):	
Type Of Fireworks To Be Purchased and/or Possessed:	<input type="checkbox"/> High Hazard Fireworks <input type="checkbox"/> Low Hazard Fireworks
Address Where Fireworks Will Be Stored (Include Legal Description If Necessary)	
	Lot: _____ Block: _____ Plan: _____
Description of Where Fireworks are to be Stored:	
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Special Conditions / Precautions Include Storage Requirements	
Name Of Authorizing Officer:	
Signature Of Authorizing Officer:	
Date:	

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Section B – Discharge / Set-off / Display (for ALL Fireworks Discharges / Displays)

Applicant Name:	
Applicant Address:	
Applicant Email:	
24 Hour Contact Number(S):	
Address Where Fireworks Will Be Stored (Include Legal Description If Necessary)	
	Lot: _____ Block: _____ Plan: _____
Type of Fireworks Display:	<input type="checkbox"/> High Hazard Fireworks <input type="checkbox"/> Low Hazard Fireworks
Description of Where Fireworks Are To Be Stored:	
Purpose Of Display:	
Date and Time of the Display	From: _____ Until: _____ Date: _____
Fireworks Storage Description:	
Fire Department Stand-By:	<input type="checkbox"/> I require the Fire Department to be on site for the event (*see below)
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Special Conditions / Precautions Include Storage Requirements	
Name Of Authorizing Officer:	
Signature Of Authorizing Officer:	
Date:	

*Fire Department Stand-by Fee: \$250.00/per hour/per unit

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PART TWO – Site Diagram

Applicant to provide a detailed diagram of fireworks display site and provide full list of purchased fireworks.

A large, empty grid area intended for the applicant to draw a detailed diagram of the fireworks display site.

PART THREE – CHECKLIST

The information on this form is being collected for the purpose of a municipal operation or activity under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 32(c). For more information contact: Town of Westlock 780-349-4444

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- INSURANCE POLICY** - The operator requires an insurance policy specifically covering fireworks displays. See Part Four
- SAFETY OF THE DISPLAY** - The fireworks display must be carried out in accordance with industry practices as outlined by Natural Resources Canada. Always follow the manufacturer's directions.
- NOTIFY NEIGHBOURS PRIOR TO THE EVENT** - To minimise the potential for complaints, the operator is required to notify those people who might be affected by the display — for example, neighbours. This is also a common courtesy and allows people to take certain precautions, such as protecting animals.
- DISPLAY PLAN** – A display plan must be submitted that includes a layout, and the location and types of fireworks
- ASSISTANTS** - Are there sufficient assistants on site to:
 - a) prepare the display without rushing;
 - b) provide security at the site;
 - c) clear the site afterwards

While this will vary depending on the size of the display, generally an operator alone is insufficient.

- CROWD CONTROL** - How is the operator handling this important aspect? Is the designated display area effectively secured with barriers, fences, etc.? Is the audience effectively isolated from the fireworks and the display site?
- EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS** - Emergency procedures covering accidents, fire, misfires and their disposal, and theft or loss shall be developed submitted with this application.
- APPROVAL TO USE SITE** - The permittee is required to have approval to use the site on which the display is being held.
- PROTECTION OF THE SUPERVISOR/ASSISTANTS** – the display supervisor and assistant must have suitable Personal Protective Equipment.
- WEATHER CONDITIONS** - The permittee should consider stopping (or not commencing) the display in adverse weather conditions — for example, high winds.
- CLEAN UP AFTER THE DISPLAY** – an inspection and cleanup of the display site must be completed as well as an inspection of the debris area.

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PART FOUR - CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

Please note:

1. This permit application applies to the Town of Westlock and Municipal boundaries only. For purchase or display outside of Westlock you will need to obtain the applicable permit.
2. The purchase of any fireworks in the Town of Westlock requires the completion of Section A.
3. All persons wishing to discharge fireworks **MUST** have a permit and complete Section B of this form. You must obtain this permit irrespective of whether you bought the fireworks in the Town of Westlock or not.

Additional Conditions of Purchase or Discharge:

1. Permits are subject to cancellation at any time for any breach of the Alberta Fire Code (any section), Town of Westlock Fireworks Bylaw #2010-17, or any condition identified.
2. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are compliant at all times.
3. It is an offence to provide incomplete, incorrect or misleading information. You may be subject to a fine of no less than \$500.00 for failing to provide full and correct information.
4. **Proof of comprehensive general liability insurance in an amount no less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) naming the Municipality as an additional insured and containing a cross liability clause (Display Fireworks or Pyrotechnic Devices only).**
5. **Proof that the applicant has been approved by the Chief Inspector of Explosives pursuant to the Explosives Act as a Fireworks Supervisor by providing a copy of Fireworks Supervisor's Licence (Display Fireworks or Pyrotechnic Devices only).**
6. An indemnification/liability agreement signed by the applicant or by an individual having authority to bind the applicant (Display Fireworks or Pyrotechnic Devices only).
7. Proof of authorization of owner of the land that Fireworks may be discharged from this location.

DECLARATION

I am the owner or authorized agent of the owner of the above application, and I certify the truth of all the statements and representations in this and all other documents submitted. I agree if a permit is issued that all condition indicated shall be followed without deviation. By signing below I agree that I have read and understood the information above and that I have read and understood the specific sections of the Alberta Fire Code and the Town of Westlock Fireworks Bylaw #2010-17. I also understand that if I do not agree to these conditions I will not be issued a permit.

Date

Applicant Signature