

Canadian National Fireworks Association

Deputation to Economic & Community Development Committee

- Review of Chapter 466, Fireworks
- Presented by Perry Logan
Executive Director CNFA &
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Canadian National Fireworks Association

- Established in 2013, the Canadian National Fireworks Association is the leading voice advocating on behalf of the fireworks industry to promote fair access and safety in the sale and use of fireworks
- Partnering with all three levels of government to create improvements within the fireworks industry through:
 - Vendor Certification & Employee Training
 - Advocacy with Regulators
 - Strong & Engaged member compliance
- Industry and the government both must accept the responsibility to create vendor certification and training for users
- Since January 2021, we have met with 40+ stakeholders across Toronto including MLS & TFS
- Working closely with governments to create updated and location specific legislation including City of Edmonton, as today's City of Toronto report details

Vendor Certification & Employee Training Program is key to addressing Toronto's safety, education & enforcement requirements



Mission of the CNFA is to promote fair access and safety in the sale and use of fireworks through vendor certification, employee training, advocacy with regulators, and member compliance.

Review of Chapter 466 - Fireworks

From the City of Toronto's staff report on fireworks use:

- ✓ *City action plan to be implemented immediately to enhance education, outreach and enforcement*
- ✓ *More publicized outreach, public education & information needed to support fireworks compliance*
- ✓ *Enhanced education required to ensure regulations are followed (eg: discharging in parks is prohibited)*
- ✓ *The word 'education' is used twenty-eight times within the report, however no additional financial resources for the city's action plan are available*
- ✓ *77% of survey respondents are somewhat/not familiar with rules fireworks sales in Toronto*
- ✓ *Data shows no compliance issues among vendors*
- ✓ *Residents have limited concerns about vendor compliance*

CNFA strongly believes that our Vendor Certification & Employee Training Program can be strategically leveraged as part of the city's action plan for enhanced education and to ensure regulatory compliance

Working with the CNFA will contribute to the city's goals at no cost, similar to our approach across other Canadian cities



REPORT FOR ACTION

Response to Increased Unpermitted Fireworks Use during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Date: April 13, 2021

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards and the Acting Fire Chief, Toronto Fire Services

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report responds to an October 2020 City Council directive, requesting Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) and Toronto Fire Services (TFS) undertake a review of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 466, Fireworks.

Chapter 466, Fireworks regulates the use and sale of fireworks in Toronto. Fireworks on private property may only be used without a permit on Victoria Day and Canada Day. To use fireworks on private property any other day of the year, residents must have a permit from TFS. Discharging or igniting fireworks in a city park by members of the public is also prohibited. The sale of fireworks in Toronto requires a vendor permit issued by MLS.

Staff undertook a review of Chapter 466, Fireworks in early 2021. This work included a review of current regulations and enforcement practices related to the sale and discharge of fireworks, as well as a jurisdictional scan, public survey and stakeholder consultations, and an analysis of fireworks-related emergency incidents and complaints. Staff also considered the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the review, staff found that there was a notable increase in unpermitted fireworks use and emergency incidents related to fireworks during the 2020 warm-weather season, compared to previous years. Staff believe this is due to factors related to the pandemic, including more residents staying home in the city, cancellation of other events and City and community fireworks displays, and redeployment of enforcement resources to enforce public health measures and provincial emergency orders. Staff anticipate similar conditions during the 2021 warm-weather season.

Through a public survey, staff identified an overall lack of awareness of Toronto's current fireworks rules. Staff also found that Toronto residents have varied opinions about issues related to fireworks. A large number of survey respondents were concerned about fireworks noise, and impacts of fireworks use on pets, wildlife, the

Response to Increased Unpermitted Fireworks Use during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Page 1 of 14



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Vendor Certification & Employee Training Program

Canadian National Fireworks Association

87% COMPLETE: 81/93 Steps

Previous Page Next Page

Fireworks Vendor Training Course

- Explosives Act Review
- Regulators
 - Regulators of Canada
 - Natural Resources Canada
 - The Explosives Safety and Security Branch (ESSB)
 - Explosives Regulatory Division
 - Transport Canada
 - Provincial and Municipal Bylaws
 - Regulator & Bylaw Review
- Sales Establishment
 - Sales Establishment (Your Score)
 - The Definition of a Dwelling
 - The Sales Establishment
 - Requirements of a Sales Establishment
 - Temporary Sales Establishment

Requirements of a Sales Establishment

341 (2) Whether the establishment is permanent or temporary, the retailer must ensure that

- (a) the sales establishment is protected from unauthorized access when it is not open for business; and
- (b) all places where consumer fireworks are stored, whether inside or outside the establishment, must be at least 100 m from all above-ground storage tanks for flammable substances in bulk and at least 8 m from the following:
 - (i) fuel dispensers at a fuel dispensing station,
 - (ii) retail propane-dispensing tanks and cylinders,
 - (iii) above-ground storage tanks for flammable substances, and
 - (iv) dispensing facilities for compressed natural gas.

Ref: Explosives Regulations, 2015 – SRN(2015)11, s. 341 (2)

Previous Page Next Page

CNFA Vendor Certification and Employee Training course training system



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What we have heard & Our Response

- Enforcement & Prosecution is very difficult, staff need to look at other means to prevent illegal fireworks
- Police, Fire & By law enforcement are not equipped to respond
- Training & certification is the #1 component needed and should be a shared responsibility
- Should designated places & distance measures be established?
- Can signage in parks be improved on usage, avoidance from sensitive areas?
- City should be cognizant of regulatory framework
- Federal government doesn't enforce federal rules at the local level
- Retailers could play a stronger role in permitting of fireworks use and consumer education
- How are sales of products structured
- What do fireworks vendors have to say?
- A vendor certification and employee training program can address multiple concerns
- A standardized approach to enforcement that is simple to administer
- Committed to enhanced cooperation between enforcement bodies
- Fireworks vendors are very supportive & understand the importance of stronger education and training
- Be a Good Neighbour is embedded in CNFA's education



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