



Wilmot Fire Department
60 Snyder's Road West
Baden, Ontario
N3A 1A1

For Immediate Release: May 12, 2020

Plan Ahead and Be Safe This Holiday Weekend

Township of Wilmot – May 12, 2020

The Wilmot Fire Department would like to remind residents of important fire safety considerations as we prepare to celebrate the upcoming Victoria Day weekend.

Backyard Fires

People already holding valid contained site permits are still permitted to have backyard fires. However, it is the owner's responsibility to understand and follow the **current burn by-law**. During the pandemic, there will be zero tolerance for non-compliance. The Township will be laying charges and/or billing for fire department responses to calls where guidelines are not being followed. We need to reduce the number of calls and limit firefighter interaction so we can keep our firefighters safe and healthy when they must respond to critical emergencies.

Open Flame in Garage

Fuel-burning appliances such as barbecues, fire pits/bowls/tables, heaters and generators can produce dangerous carbon monoxide (CO) gas that may cause sickness or death. These appliances are intended for outdoor use only and should never be used in an enclosed space such as a garage.

Fire Chief Urges Residents to Keep Fire Safety Top of Mind

Make sure your alarms work and are not more than 10 years old (check instructions). Test smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button. Only working smoke alarms can give you the early warning you need to safely escape a fire in your home. Test and check your CO alarm at the same time.

Watch what you heat; always stay in the kitchen when you are cooking. Unattended cooking is a leading cause of home fires.

Encourage smokers to smoke outside and to thoroughly extinguish all smoking material in water or sand.

Never dry or decontaminate masks in microwave. Metal components inside masks may cause a fire.

Victoria Day Celebrations

When planning private backyard firework displays for the upcoming holiday weekend, residents are encouraged to be mindful of provincially imposed limitations on gatherings of more than 5 people and who are not a part of the same household. Residents are asked to keep celebrations small and limited to only those within their household or consider celebrating the holiday in different ways this year. Region of Waterloo by-law officers will be enforcing current public health restrictions during the holiday weekend.

Fireworks Safety

If you choose to have a family fireworks display, review the [Wilmot Township By-Law regulating the use of fireworks](#). Do not set off fireworks in public areas such as parks or sports fields, as you could face fines for this prohibited activity. These times are stressful for some, so take extra care, be respectful to you neighbours and their property, and keep the celebrations a positive experience for everyone.

In addition to adhering to the fireworks by-law, here are some other important safety tips:

- Appoint a responsible person to be in charge. Only adults who are aware of the hazards and essential safety precautions should handle and discharge fireworks.
- Carefully read and follow the label directions on fireworks packaging.
- Always keep a water hose or pail of water close by when discharging fireworks.
- Discharge fireworks well away from combustible materials like buildings, trees and dry grass.
- Keep onlookers a safe distance away, upwind from the area where fireworks are discharged.
- Light only one firework at a time and only when they are on the ground. Never try to light a firework in your hand or re-light dud fireworks. For dud fireworks, it is best to wait 30 minutes and soak them in a bucket of water. Dispose of them in a metal container.
- Discharge fireworks only if wind conditions do not create a safety hazard.
- Keep sparklers away from children. Sparklers burn extremely hot and can ignite clothing, cause blindness and result in severe burns. As the sparkler wire remains hot for some minutes after burnout, it should be immediately soaked in water to avoid injury.
- If someone gets burned, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes and seek medical attention, if necessary.

Please refer to www.wilmot.ca for current restrictions and by-law information.

For more information, contact:

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