

**TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL**  
**ACTION ITEM**

**Committee:** Committee of the Whole Administration and Operations

**Date:** May 12, 2025

**Department:** Fire

**Topic:** Fireworks Bylaw Update

**Purpose:** To provide education and enforceable guidelines on the safe sale and use of consumer and display fireworks through updated municipal bylaw and permit system.

**Background:** At the April Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting, the committee reviewed the current fireworks bylaw and discussed several key issues including:

- Limiting the days fireworks may be sold and discharged
- The authority of the Fire Chief and By-law Enforcement Officers (BLEOs) to enforce restrictions
- Potential exemption options
- Oversight practices in neighbouring municipalities
- The feasibility of integrating fireworks permits into the existing burn permit system

A jurisdictional review revealed that approaches to fireworks regulation vary significantly, with some municipalities including fireworks under their noise bylaws.

Municipality	Firework Sales	Consumer Fireworks	Display Fireworks
Ottawa	7 days prior to Canada & Victoria Day	Canada Day & Victoria Day (day before & day after)	Application 30 days prior. \$5,000,000 Insurance
Hawkesbury	7-days prior to authorized days	Victoria Day, St. Jean Baptist Day, Canada Day (day before & day after)	Application 30 days prior. \$5,000,000 Insurance
Prescott	Bylaw dept notification required along with posting of fireworks bylaw.	Must not create a nuisance to any person or property.	Council approval required on public land.

Merrickville	No restrictions specified	Permission of the fire chief required in noise bylaw.	(approval of AHJ in Explosives Act)
Elizabethtown Kitley	No restrictions specified	Fireworks permit needed. Inspection required.	Fireworks permit needed. Inspection required.
Augusta	No restrictions specified	Prohibited between the hours of 11:00 pm – 08:00 am. In noise bylaw	(approval of AHJ in Explosives Act)
Carleton Place	7-days prior to authorized days	Canada Day & Victoria Day (day before & day after)	(approval of AHJ in Explosives Act)

Based on committee feedback, the previously authorized days for the discharge of fireworks have been replaced with a requirement for a permit. Additionally, the authorized days for the sale of consumer fireworks have been replaced with a requirement for approval from the fire chief.

The permit system infrastructure is already in place and can be adapted for fireworks with minimal adjustments. Permit applicants will be required to acknowledge and agree to the specified safety requirements and setbacks as a condition of approval. This approach maintains public safety while streamlining administrative processes.

Enforcement of the fireworks bylaw is expected to be driven primarily through education and public awareness. The updated bylaw provides staff with the necessary authority to respond to fireworks-related complaints and concerns.

**Policy Implications:** The Municipal Act permits a municipality to pass bylaws prohibiting and regulating the sale and the discharge of fireworks. This enables municipalities to choose the holidays that residents may discharge consumer fireworks and conditions for retail sales.

**Strategic Plan Implications:** Aligns with the goal of fostering a safe and healthy community through responsible regulation.

**Financial Considerations:** None anticipated at this time.

**Recommendation:** That Committee recommends that Council approve the updated Fireworks Bylaw attached to this report.

  
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 Fire Chief