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Fireworks safety tips for the Victoria Day long weekend!

NEWMARKET, Ontario, May 18, 2016 – With the Victoria Day long weekend approaching, Central York Fire Services (CYFS) reminds residents to be safe with the use, handling and disposal of fireworks.

Please remember that fireworks are not to be ignited on public property, including parks and open fields/spaces in the Towns of Newmarket and Aurora. You must obtain a permit through CYFS prior to discharge/ use of fireworks on Town property. Fireworks are only permitted on Victoria Day and the day before and after the holiday for Newmarket residents and on Victoria Day and the day preceding the holiday for Aurora residents. Residents setting off fireworks may do so only on their own private property or with written permission from the owner of such property and have an 18 metre (59 ft.) frontage on the residential property they are discharging fireworks on. Residents are reminded to purchase fireworks from a reliable vendor, have a water source handy and ensure there is always an adult present when handling fireworks. To minimize the risk of fire and burn injury, CYFS recommends attending a public fireworks display hosted by the municipality or other responsible organizations.

The Towns of Newmarket and Aurora do not offer firework displays for the Victoria Day long weekend, but here are some neighbouring York Region municipalities that do:

- The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville will be hosting their Victoria Day celebration with food, ice cream and more including a fireworks show on **May 22 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.** at the Ballantrae Community Centre (5592 Aurora Side Road). To learn more, visit www.townofws.ca
- Visit Nobleton for its biggest event of the year on **May 23, beginning at 11 a.m.** Bring the entire family to the Nobleton Victoria Day Fair and Parade at the Nobleton Arena Grounds (15 Old King Road). Fireworks display will begin at dusk. Visit www.nobletonvillage.com to learn more

If you choose to have family fireworks or an informal neighborhood display, keep these firework safety tips in mind:

- Purchase fireworks from a reliable source. Stay away from illegal explosives
- Carefully read and follow directions on the label of fireworks packaging
- Only use fireworks outdoors
- Always have a water source such as a running garden hose or bucket of water handy
- Never experiment with or make your own fireworks
- Light only one firework at a time. Never set off fireworks during strong winds
- Never re-light a dud firework. Wait 15 to 20 minutes, then soak the dud in a bucket of water
- Never give fireworks to small children and always have an adult present
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people
- The handler should always wear eye protection and never have any part of their body over the firework
- Remember to be considerate of your neighbours and pets when using fireworks. Only use fireworks between the hours of dusk (approximately 8 to 11 p.m.), as the noise may be disturbing to those around you
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the proper disposal of fireworks

For more information, safety tips and links to Town by-laws, visit www.cyfs.ca

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