

**Bylaw 35-2019: Fireworks Bylaw****Report Purpose**

To provide Council with information in support of a new bylaw to establish rules for responsible and safe sale, ownership, possession, and use of fireworks and other explosive devices intended for entertainment.

**Recommendation**

1. THAT Bylaw 35-2019, the Fireworks Bylaw, be given first reading.
2. THAT Bylaw 35-2019 be given second reading.
3. THAT Bylaw 35-2019 be considered for third reading.
4. THAT Bylaw 35-2019 be given third reading.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

**Report**

Fireworks are regulated by the federal Explosives Act (Canada E-17). Historically, Emergency Services has regulated the sale and discharge of fireworks and pyrotechnic devices within Strathcona County through provisions in the Alberta Fire Code. The 2019 edition of the National Fire Code - Alberta Edition has removed the prescriptive requirements that enabled our municipality to control fireworks activities without a specific bylaw.

Emergency Services' past practice has been that we do not issue discharge permits for consumer fireworks within urban service areas of Strathcona County, for safety reasons. Display fireworks for events like Canada Day and New Years Eve that are discharged by a certified pyrotechnician with a fireworks display plan have been and will continue to be allowed in the urban service area. Consumer fireworks permits have been issued for rural service areas as the distances to property lines allow for safe discharge. Fire Prevention Officers ensure permit applicants are educated on safe discharge and storage practises and briefed on the permit conditions prior to approval. The proposed Bylaw has been drafted to allow for consistency with our past practice.

Since the implementation of this educational approach to permitting, Emergency Services has received only one complaint in the last two years regarding fireworks being discharged which cause a nuisance. Emergency Services has not responded to any fires that have started due to fireworks that we are aware of.

Emergency Services, together with Legislative and Legal Services has drafted a fireworks bylaw. Broad research was completed, including a review of past practice, other municipalities' existing and proposed bylaws and fines, and an upgrade of our current permitting process to bring it in line with federal regulations and Bylaw 35-2019.

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** N/A

**Legislative/Legal:** N/A

**Interdepartmental:** Legislative and Legal Services, Enforcement Services

**Master Plan/Framework:** N/A

**Alternatives**

THAT Council direct Administration to hold a Non-Statutory Public Hearing regarding Bylaw 35-2019 before second and third readings are conducted.

**Enclosure**

1                      Fireworks Bylaw 35-2019