

Fire Rescue Services

Edmonton

Proposed Amendments to Fire Rescue Services Bylaw 15309 (Fireworks) - Revised

Item 7.2 September 9, 2022
Community and Public Services Committee

Fireworks Regulations and Legislation

Consumer Fireworks

Low hazard and designed for recreational use; can be used in professional shows.

Eg. Community league display

Used to be GoA regulated - now CoE

Regulated by Tier I on residential property (free)

Regulated by Tier II on non-residential property (\$147)

Professional Use Only

Display Fireworks

High hazard, designed for professional use for large outdoor public viewing events.

Eg. Kinsmen Sports Center on Canada Day

Pyrotechnics Fireworks

High hazard and designed for professional use during theatrical performances.

Eg. Elton John concert

Regulated by Natural Resources Canada

Regulated with a Display Permit (\$181)

Regulated with a Permit for pyrotechnic devices (\$99)

Background: Professional Use of Consumer Fireworks (Tier II) Permits

	2017	2019	2022
Permit Required?	Yes, High Hazard	Yes, Tier II	
Source of Requirements	2014 Alberta Fire Code	Best Practice Recommended Safety Measures, Display Fireworks Manual + additional local requirements	
Permit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of certification as a Fireworks Display Supervisor • Proof of Insurance • Site Map • Safety Plan, Emergency Plan, Site Remediation • The site must be more than 250 metres from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ correctional institution; ○ facility as defined in the Mental Health Act; ○ nursing home; ○ social care facility; ○ Hospital; or ○ educational or religious institution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event information and site plan • Product list and • Proof of certification - Display Assistant or above • Safety Plan, Emergency Plan, Site Remediation • Proof of \$2M insurance • If applicable, proof of notification provided to a correctional institution, a facility as defined in the Mental Health Act, a nursing home, a social care facility a hospital or an educational or religious institution within 250 meters of the site. Proof of notification for an educational or religious institution is only required if the event happens when the building could reasonably be occupied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Mitigation Plan when site plan includes combustibles and letter from the landowner acknowledging the risk • If a fireworks permit Safety Zone contains any volume of combustibles and/or any uninhabited buildings, The permit applicant must submit a fire risk mitigation plan.
Cost of Application	\$163	\$147	
Processing Time	5-10 business days	5-10 business days	5 business days

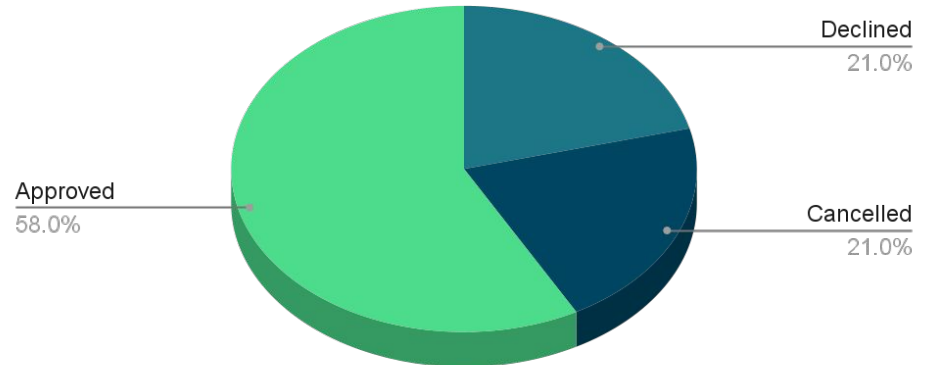
Background: Non-Professional Use of Consumer Fireworks (Tier I) Permit

	2017	2019	2022
Permit Required?	Yes, Low Hazard	Yes, Tier I	
Source of Requirements	2014 Alberta Fire Code	Best Practice Recommended Safety Measures, Display Fireworks Manual + additional local requirements	
Permit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site must be 10 meters or more away from any building, trees, gazebos, etc, • Confirmed land ownership. • Site must be more than 250 metres away from a correctional institution, a facility as defined in the Mental Health Act, a nursing home, a social care facility, a hospital or an educational or religious institution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant must be 18 years of age or older • Applicant must be the property owner or have written permission from the property owner to discharge fireworks. • Map of the property with distances. • A list of the fireworks being discharged. • Must have a water source, preferably 3 gallons of water, garden hose, or a fire extinguisher on site. 	
Cost of Application	\$130	Free	
Processing Time	5-10 business days	5-10 business days	5 business days

Background: Edmonton Fireworks Permits: Tier II

- In 2019, City of Edmonton adopted the Tier I and Tier II permitting structure
- In 2020 there were no Tier II applications due to the pandemic
- In 2021, FRS received 19 Tier II applications, most of which were approved
- Application volume is heaviest in September-October





2021 Tier II Applications Results



Engagement with Faith, Cultural & Community Groups

- Administration sought feedback from stakeholders on two key questions:
 - How might these new public safety regulations affect the ability of your organization to celebrate with fireworks?
 - What could the City of Edmonton do to help your organization understand and enable the safe and legal use of fireworks?
- EFCL has provided a letter of support for the proposed changes.

What Can This Look Like?

Activity	Permit Granted?	Reasoning
Celebrating with sparklers in your backyard.	 Allowed - no permit required	Sparklers are exempt from regulation.
A mosque celebrating Eid with a professional fireworks display.	 Allowed provided the application is complete, on time and the show provider can show proof of insurance.	Professional fireworks displays mitigate fire and injury risk while allowing the public to enjoy fireworks safely.
A community league celebrating a neighbourhood milestone with a professional fireworks show.	 Allowed provided the application is complete, on time and the show provider can show proof of insurance.	Same as above. Grants from the City are available to cover the costs of community events that meet the criteria.
Discharging fireworks in your backyard.	 Denied unless the operator holds a valid certificate from Natural Resources Canada and all permit requirements are met, including safety zone.	Non-professional fireworks use poses injury and fire risk to the user and surrounding property/people.

Additional Supports

- Based on stakeholder feedback, the following supports are either available already or would be made available if future bylaw amendments are approved.
 - Available now:
 - **Pre-approval process** to help community organizations
 - **Application checklists** to facilitate the submission of complete and accurate applications to reduce delays.
 - With future changes to the regulations:
 - **Reduced Tier II Permit Fee** to \$100.
 - **Translated information sheets** available on edmonton.ca and through community groups.
 - **Updated and simplified edmonton.ca navigation and information**, including links to grants for community events.

Next Steps

- As the work of public spaces bylaws review progresses, Administration will continue to refine the proposal for a consolidated consumer fireworks permit.
 - Any bylaw amendments required to implement new regulations regarding fireworks will be advanced as part of that project for Council approval.

Thank you.