**Canada Day might look different this year with social distancing and fewer public events, but our message is the same. Fireworks are dangerous.**

**We know this year in particular has been hard for families, and we all want to celebrate this great country. Your local fire fighters ask that you do not take fireworks into your own hands and backyards - even as shows are cancelled. Nothing is worth the safety of your friends and family.**

Every year, Canadians celebrate Canada Day with fireworks and sparklers. While these homemade displays are a great way to enjoy the holiday, they are also a great way to wind up in the emergency room or making a call to the fire department.

That’s why fire fighters suggest that you leave the firework displays to the professionals and view them from a distance.

Thousands of our neighbors are injured every year by fireworks and sparklers. Yes, sparklers. Those pyrotechnics on the end of a stick are pretty to look at, but they are especially dangerous. Sparklers can burn at temperatures of more than 600 degrees. Considering that these are often casually given to children to wave with little warning or instruction, it is easy to understand why so many children are treated in the hospital for sparkler injuries each year.

Many Canada Day celebrations also include increased use of firecrackers or bottle rockets. While not as large as you might consider fireworks, these tiny explosives can also be very dangerous, sending many people to the emergency department.

Most injuries involve hands and fingers; however, it is important to note that injuries to eyes are also a major concern with fireworks.

Local laws differ on fireworks. Make sure you know your law – not just provincial law but local laws, as well. You may be surprised that your community has outlawed fireworks, unless done by a professional.

Another consideration before planning your Canada Day celebration is that the booms and flashes from fireworks, firecrackers and bottle rockets may be a source of stress for some members of the community. Loud noises can be a trigger for some veterans and others struggling with post-traumatic stress.

Pets are also affected by do-it-yourself Canada Day extravaganzas as they are especially vulnerable to sparklers, bottle rockets and firecrackers. Many pets also are unfamiliar with the sounds of the explosions and may suffer needless anxiety.

Your fire fighters understand the desire to celebrate Canada Day with family and friends. We will likely be doing the same, but while firing up the grill and enjoying a cold drink are all great for your party at home, fireworks of all kinds should be avoided. Leave the fireworks to the professionals.