

Spring Safety Tips

Inside the home

- ✚ Check and clean your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- ✚ Smoke alarm batteries should be changed twice a year (when clocks change) **or** when you hear the alarm beep at intervals.
- ✚ There should be at least one smoke alarm on every floor of the house. Test your smoke alarms by pressing the *test button* to ensure they are operational every month.
- ✚ Check for overloaded or damaged extension cords.
- ✚ Check and clean filters above stove.
- ✚ Prepare for storm related outages. Make sure your flashlights and portable radios have batteries and supplies such as bottled water are stocked.
- ✚ Practice your escape plan with your family so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.
- ✚ Properly store household chemicals away from children and never mix cleaning agents. Always read the safety label and instructions on each product.
- ✚ Pull the refrigerator out and vacuum or dust the coils.
- ✚ Check windows to ensure they open and close properly in case they are needed as an exit.
- ✚ Always keep stairs and landings clear for safe evacuation in event of an emergency.

Dryers

- ✚ The leading cause of clothes dryer-related fires is a failure to keep dryers clean. Scooping out the lint basket takes about 10 seconds, so be sure to clear it out every time you throw a load in. Built up lint is dangerous and if exposed to spark or flame it ignites very quickly. NFPA also recommends cleaning out the vent pipe at least once a year.

Outside and around the yard

- ✚ Make sure your address number is up and visible from the street.
- ✚ Clean up yard debris. Cut back dead limbs and grasses. Store safely in a bin away from the house for collection.
- ✚ Maintain a clear 'fire zone' of 10 feet around structures. Clean up leaves and debris and consider using stone or non-combustible mulches.
- ✚ Check outdoor electrical outlets and other electrical appliances.
- ✚ Get your BBQ grill cleaned and serviced. Check all propane tanks and lines for leaks and damage.
- ✚ Keep 100 feet of garden hose with an attached nozzle connected and ready for use.

In the garage or shed

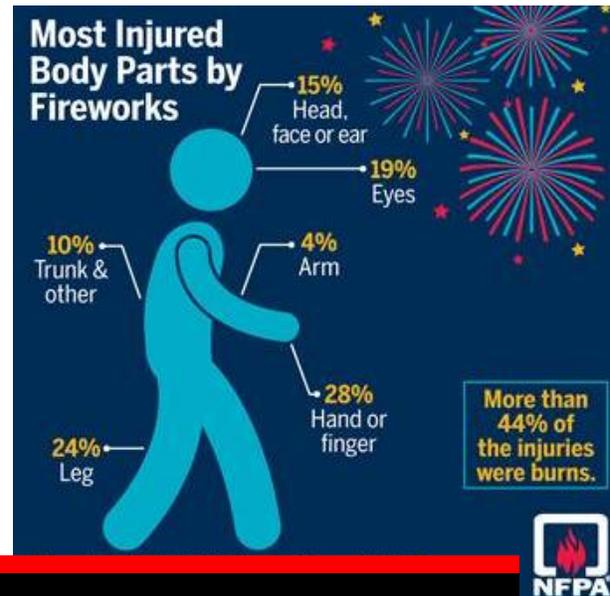
- ✚ Clean up and properly store paints, pool, and yard chemicals.
- ✚ Check fuel containers for leaks and make sure they are properly stored.
- ✚ Have all power equipment cleaned, serviced and ready for use.
- ✚ Let power equipment sit for approximately 30 minutes before placing it inside.

Source: CFAA Journal 2021



Fireworks safety

As summer approaches, we would like to share some safety guidelines so and your family can enjoy holiday fireworks.



On any other day of the year (besides Victoria Day and Canada Day), residents would need a permit to legally use fireworks at home.

- ✚ Always read and follow firework label directions.
- ✚ Buy your fireworks from a reliable source.
- ✚ Never use illegal fireworks.
- ✚ Always have an adult present to supervise firework activities.
- ✚ Operate fireworks outdoors and in an area at least 30 metres by 30 metres.
- ✚ Make sure that the area is clear of all obstructions, such as overhead wires and trees.
- ✚ Keep the audience (and particularly children) a safe distance away from the shooting site, preferably upwind.
- ✚ Keep water nearby (garden hose and bucket).
- ✚ Wear eye protection when operating fireworks.
- ✚ Ignite the fireworks from a bucket of sand.
- ✚ Never reignite a firework that did not go off properly the first time.
- ✚ Never experiment or make your own fireworks.
- ✚ Never give fireworks or sparklers to small children.
- ✚ Dispose of fireworks responsibly by soaking them in water and disposing them in a trash can.

Source: NFPA, Vaughan.ca