Have a Safe and Happy Halloween

Date: Monday, October 29, 2012

VICTORIA, BC — With Halloween approaching, the public is reminded that a City of Victoria Fireworks Bylaw prohibits the sale, possession or discharge of fireworks. In the past, the irresponsible use of fireworks resulted in property damage, injuries, pet stress, and an increase in nuisance calls to emergency service agencies.

The Fireworks Bylaw includes firecrackers, fireballs, Roman Candles, sky rockets, squibs, torpedoes, and any other explosive designated as a firework by regulation. Victoria Police enforce the bylaw and failure to comply results in seizures and fines. Penalties are applied per incident with a minimum penalty of $200 and a maximum of $10,000. Exceptions are available through an application of a special fireworks permit. For more information, visit: http://www.victoria.ca/assets/City-Hall/Bylaws/bylaw-07-070.pdf

Halloween is a fun and spooky time of year. Below are some tips to keeping children safe during trick-or-treating and to preventing fires in the home.

- When choosing a costume, stay away from billowing or long, trailing fabric to prevent tripping. If you are making a costume, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes into contact with heat or flame. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.

- Provide children with flashlights or glow in the dark props to carry for lighting as part of their costume.

- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.

- It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a Jack-o-lantern. If using a real candle, use extreme caution and make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit.

- Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire.

- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes. Keep outdoor pathways clear of tripping hazards for trick-or-treaters.

The Victoria Fire Department wishes Victoria residents a safe and happy Halloween.

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For More Information:

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