

■ Good Hands® Advice

Tips to help you be prepared and informed



Safe Summer Celebrations

From barbecues to picnics to pool parties, outdoor celebrations are part of Canadian summers. To ensure everyone has a good time, keep responsible hosting and safety in mind. Be a responsible host. Remember - your guests are your responsibility. You may be liable for guests who choose to drink and drive. Impaired drivers put everyone on the road at risk. According to MADD Canada, on average, four Canadians are killed and 190 are injured in impaired driving crashes every day. So celebrate the summer safely by following these tips:

Hosting Tips

When hosting a party, offer plenty of non-alcoholic beverages and serve food to help slow the absorption of alcohol. Stop serving alcohol at least one hour before the party is over and never pressure others to drink or rush to refill their glasses when empty.

- **Be alert.** When entertaining your guests, drink in moderation. It will be much easier to determine whether or not a guest is able to drive if you are sober.
- **Don't drink and drive.** If you or your guests will be drinking, arrange a ride with a sober driver, call a cab or insist the guest sleeps at your home.
- **Spot an impaired driver? Call 911.** If you spot a driver on the road you suspect is impaired maintain a safe distance and don't attempt to pass. After pulling over safely, call 911 and alert police. Give them as much information as possible. For example: licence plate number, make, model and colour of vehicle, and the direction the vehicle is travelling.

Fireworks Fun

Fireworks are often a big part of long weekend celebrations. Make sure your fireworks displays are safe by following these tips:

- **Check with your local municipality.** Municipalities have different by-laws regarding the use of fireworks - so check with the local police or fire department about the rules regarding discharging fireworks in your area.
- **Read the instructions.** Each firework device has different cautions, warnings and instructions. Make sure you read each package.

- **Check the wind direction.** Set up for your fireworks display so the wind is blowing away from spectators, buildings and trees.
- **Keep back.** Spectators should be at least 8 metres away from the fireworks display. Ensure all children are supervised.
- **Smart set up.** Fireworks should only be lit outdoors, in an open space away from trees. Fireworks should be lit on a hard, level surface.
- **Be prepared.** Have a bucket of sand, supply of water and a fire extinguisher readily available.
- **Sparkle safely.** Sparklers may seem like harmless fun; however they can reach temperatures of 650C. They also remain very hot after burning; once done, they should be immersed in a bucket of sand or water.
- **Age appropriate.** Only adults should handle and light fireworks. Children 10 to 14 years of age sustain 42 per cent of the injuries associated with fireworks.
- **One at a time.** Fireworks should only be lit one at a time. Special effects should be left to professionals.
- **Don't relight.** If a firework is defective, don't attempt to relight it.
- **Have fun!**

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