

Honourable Members of the London City Council:

I oppose allowing fireworks altogether; however, when given a mere two choices, I would prefer to choose the least damaging one: Option "B". These are my reasons:

Contaminants and chemicals: fireworks release a host of contaminants that affect air quality and can contribute to climate change, including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, and particulate matter. Traditional fireworks are wrapped tightly with metals like copper and lithium, which create the blue and red colours we see in the sky. But when they explode, metallic compounds released into the environment can be carcinogenic or toxic to both humans and animals, making breathing more difficult for those with asthma or other respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. There's often an increased number of hospital visits after the holidays where the displays go off.

Hearing damage: The loud bangs that accompany traditional fireworks can produce noise levels of over 150 decibels doing damage to hearing. Sounds or noises are damaging to the human ear at about 110 decibels. Animal hearing is much more refined; hence, they suffer exponentially.

Panic-inducing noises: Fireworks can trigger panic in vulnerable humans, as well as wildlife and domestic pets. Refugees from war-torn countries like Syria, Sudan, and the Ukraine, are at a particular risk of feeling fear and anxiety. Loud bangs, flash lights in fireworks could reawaken bad memories that they have had in their respective countries of origin. Most refugees come to Canada after experiencing actually lots of traumatic experiences.

Animals as well are affected by fireworks; they cause anxiety, disorientation, stress, and fear. Animals may abandon their young, their nests, their habitat, to avoid the fireworks: deer flee onto roads, and birds fly into buildings.

Debris of fireworks: any debris left behind can entangle species or, if consumed, litter can result in death.

Accidents: Lightening up fireworks is very dangerous. Many children as well as adults have suffered burns or damage to their eyes by uncontrolled fireworks.

Pranks and abuse: Some humans enjoy playing pranks on others or on other species by targeting them when setting off fireworks.

Cost of fireworks: How do we measure damage to the environment, hearing damage, anxiety attacks, disoriented wildlife, accidents and hospital stays, and human or animal abuse in dollars? Is it truly worth to celebrate a special holiday with fireworks?

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