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Spring ice safety: stay off the ice as temperatures rise

As Calgary moves into spring, rising temperatures make ice on rivers, lakes and storm ponds even more dangerous. While these bodies of water may still appear frozen, the ice is thinning and becoming unpredictable. Falling through can happen in an instant, putting you at risk of hypothermia or drowning.

Ice safety tips:

- **Avoid the ice.** As ice weakens, it becomes unsafe for any activity. Stay off all ice-covered rivers, lakes, and storm ponds.
- **Stay back from the edges.** Melting ice along riverbanks and lakeshores is unstable and can collapse under your weight.
- **Call 9-1-1 in an emergency.** If someone, or a pet, falls through the ice, do not attempt a rescue yourself. Call for help immediately.

If you fall through the ice:

1. Stay calm, keep your head above water, and control your breathing.
2. Call for help while keeping your hands on the ice.
3. Try to pull yourself onto the ice on your stomach and roll to safety.
4. If you can't get out in under 10 minutes, stop struggling, anchor yourself, and keep calling for help.

If you see someone fall in:

1. Call 9-1-1 immediately and provide a landmark so emergency responders know exactly where to go.
2. Stay back and avoid the ice yourself.
3. If possible, throw a rope or branch to help them reach safety.

As warmer weather continues, ice conditions will only become more hazardous. Avoid unnecessary risks—[stay off the ice](#) and keep yourself and others safe this spring.

Use your water meter to check your home for leaks

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Did you know that 40 per cent of homes have some water fixture leakage? Using your water meter to check for leaks, inside and outside the home, is one way you can do your part to use water wisely.

Using your meter to check your home for leaks is easy:

1. Turn off all taps and water-using appliances – inside and outside your home.
2. Watch the flow register on the face of the meter. The register could look like a gear or a needle depending on the model of meter you have.
3. If it keeps turning, you have a leak somewhere in your house.
4. Check all water devices, such as your toilet, taps, humidifier, hot water heater and water softener.

To learn more about common sources of household water leaks, including some helpful repair tips, visit calgary.ca/waterguide.

Travel Safe Student Video Contest is now open

Calling filmmakers of all ages and abilities. Whether you are an aspiring movie producer, working on your stop-motion skills, or you shoot videos as a hobby, this is the contest for you!

The Travel Safe Student Video contest is open to Calgary students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Win great prizes and a chance to have your work showcased! Deadline is April 30.

The contest is not only a fun and engaging way for students to think about traffic safety, but also part of the Calgary Safer Mobility Plan, a partnership between the City and Calgary Police Service aimed at improving the overall safety of our transportation network.

“We know students have unique perspectives when it comes to traffic safety and we can’t wait to see solutions through their eyes,” said Jacquelyn Oriold, Mobility Education Specialist with the City.

“Whether that’s a video from a Kindergarten student worried about safety as they walk or wheel to school, or from a middle school student concerned about speeding drivers, or a teenager’s perspective on navigating rush hour, we can’t wait to see their work.”

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Key dates:

Feb. 3 - April 30, 2025: contest submission entry window

11:59 p.m. April 30, 2025: Contest closes

May 14, 2025: Public screening event of finalists and winners announced at the Central Library in the Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall.

For full contest rules, eligibility, waiver, tips and resources visit calgary.ca/travelsafevideo. For general inquiries about the contest: streetsafekids@calgary.ca.

Green Calgary rain barrel sales

Did you know, water use in Calgary communities increases up to 20 per cent in the summer months? Capturing rainwater can help you and your community build resiliency during times of hot and dry weather while keeping your yard and garden healthy. Rain barrels typically fill up after a single rainfall and help keep water on your property, so less dirt and contaminants wash into the rivers.

Made locally with recycled material, Green Calgary rain barrels can be used to water the plants in your yard. Rain barrels are \$75 after rebate for a limited time with pick-up and delivery options available.

Visit greencalgary.org for details on all sales event dates and locations. Join the thousands of Calgarians already conserving water by using a rain barrel. Pre-order yours at greencalgary.org, starting April 1, 2025.

Amendments to the Business Licence Bylaw for short-term rentals are now in effect

Starting April 1, 2025, there will be several changes to Calgary's short-term rental (STR) regulations as part of The City of Calgary's commitment to adapt to our evolving short-rental market.

- STR business licenses will now be classified as either primary or non-primary. If you currently have a licence, you will be asked to verify your property type as part of your next renewal. Fees will vary based on the licence type.

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- Short-term rentals now include rentals up to 180 consecutive days. If you own a short-term rental offering stays between zero and 180 consecutive days, you require a business licence to operate in Calgary.
- New applicants will be responsible for complying with their condominium bylaws, The City will no longer require condo board consent.
- A ban on issuing licences for homes designated as affordable housing.

Additionally, if the [Purpose-Built Rental Vacancy Rate](#) drops below 2.5%, The City will impose a temporary pause on issuing new non-primary licences. This would not apply to new primary residence applications or existing licenses.

These changes aim to balance housing affordability, safety, community impact and enforcement, while continuing to support property owners and the economic benefits STRs bring to Calgary.

Enhancing regulatory processes will improve STR management and foster market innovation to benefit the community. Visit calgary.ca/str for more information.

Shaping Calgary's Future through Community Engagement

The Federation of Calgary Communities, in partnership with City of Calgary, bring you [Partners in Planning, a free, award-winning certificate program](#). Through a series of engaging events, residents are empowered to help shape the city's future. This year's program features workshops aimed at fostering collaboration and deepening community understanding of city planning. Here are some upcoming events:

Crafting Calgary: Planning Implementation Unveiled

Date: April 5, 9 a.m. - noon, Capitol Hill Community Association

This workshop delves into the complexities of city planning, offering insights into how the City of Calgary implements change. Learn about the balance planners strike between policies, the Land Use Bylaw, and

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community needs through various application reviews, including land use amendments and development permits.

Navigating Calgary's Blueprint: Understanding Planning

Date: May 31, 9 a.m. - noon, Capitol Hill Community Association

Explore Calgary's planning framework and the legislative policies that guide it. This event covers the Municipal Development Plan, Local Area Plans, and how these policies work together to prepare Calgary for future growth.

Elective One: Built Forms Walking Tour

Date: June 22, 9 a.m. - noon, Marda Loop Communities Association

Join this walking tour to learn about different built forms in low-density residential districts. Attendees will explore architectural elements and how they contribute to the urban fabric, highlighting how these elements enhance established communities.

Join the Federation of Calgary Communities and The City of Calgary for these insightful events and be part of shaping Calgary's future!

Noise Barrier Retrofit Program

The City of Calgary is committed to reducing the impact of transportation noise heard in residential areas through the [Noise Barrier Program](#). Where residential areas next to an eligible roadway exceed The City's noise level criteria, a barrier may be constructed.

Several approved noise barrier locations across Calgary will be moving forward with construction in 2025, with completion expected by the end of 2026. You can check the status of the noise barrier construction in your community on our website [here](#).

To learn more about the Noise Barrier Program, or to submit a request to have a noise measurement completed, visit calgary.ca/NoiseBarriers.
