

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY of CANADA

GREEN LASER POLICY

The RASC counsels its members at all times to cooperate with law enforcement officials, and to remain within the law.

In keeping with the RASC's commitment to informative, inspiring, and safe EPO, it encourages its members to follow the following guidelines for the use of GLPs:

1. Ensure that GLPs are operated only by designated, responsible adults, preferably RASC members who are familiar with the potential hazards of laser light. During public events, consider assigning one or more RASC members to help GLP operators spot oncoming air traffic;
2. Take special care not to shine GLPs in the direction of any person, vehicle, aircraft, or wildlife;
3. Avoid using GLPs near an airport or airport runway approach. We suggest that GLPs not be used within 10 km of any airport;
4. Use the minimum power to do the job: if a 5 mW laser is bright enough, why use a stronger one?
5. Be aware that distraction and distress can be experienced by anyone illuminated by green laser light, even if the level is well below that which would cause physiological damage;
6. Use good sense in storing GLPs. Don't leave lasers accessible to children. Consider removing the batteries when you are done using a GLP.

By following these guidelines (which are simply common sense) RASC members will reduce the chance of an unfortunate incident involving GLPs, and will demonstrate due diligence while leading public astronomical activities.

Remember, GLPs are useful if you're *SMART* about using them.

Safe = place safety foremost

Mature = keep GLPs in responsible hands

Astute = use GLPs skilfully and economically

Rational = match your GLP use to your scientific approach

Tactical = think ahead - plan your GLP use