



## **Régie intermunicipale de la prévention et de la protection de incendie Memphrémagog Est**

### **ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

***In case of a discrepancy the French version will prevail.***

**March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**To the persons concerned**

**Subject: Construction of the new fire station.**

In order to answer questions from residents of Stanstead Township, here are a few points of interest concerning legal obligations and the choices to be made by the members of the Stanstead Township Council.

#### **The risk coverage plan**

Fire risk management requires knowledge of the risks present on the territory. In order to face these risks, it is necessary to :

Plan fire prevention measures in order to reduce the probability of fires;

Plan all elements of fire intervention in order to limit the consequences when a fire breaks out.

Regional authorities have the obligation, under the Fire Safety Act, to establish a risk coverage plan in accordance with the Minister of Public Safety's Fire Safety Guidelines.

The risk coverage plan adopted by the MRC Memphrémagog provides for several points in particular;

The routing of resources to the scene of a fire must not be left to chance. Depending on the territory covered, the building in question and the type of fire encountered, the deployment of personnel must be planned to maximize the chances of containing the fire in the shortest possible time with the most appropriate resources.

The deployment strategy of the task force must take into account the particularities of the territory covered and the category of risks encountered. When planning operational procedures, several parameters such as the topography of the area, the distance to be covered, the availability of resources, etc. must be considered. In addition, it is mandatory to take into account the constraints that may hinder the intervention.

The Department of Public Safety has made available to SSI directors the Operations Guide for Fire Departments which covers all aspects of a response. Part 2 of this guide assists authorities in

planning the flow of resources that must be mobilized depending on the type of response. The deployment scenarios of available resources established for all sectors of the municipalities were based on ministerial directives and guidelines.

The task force required to fight a fire includes personnel assigned to rescue and extinguishing operations. A detailed analysis of the critical tasks to be performed at the intervention site establishes a minimum number of 10 firefighters required to properly carry out rescue and extinguishing operations in a building representing a low risk according to the previously proposed classification. To this end, the objective of any fire safety service (FSS) should be to assemble this number of firefighters in the shortest possible time.

Objectives 2 and 3 of the plan require municipalities facing a lack of resources to conduct an exercise that will allow them, regardless of administrative boundaries, to take into account existing resources at the regional level in establishing an optimal level of protection for their population.

### **Objective 30 of the framework**

To build, rebuild, renovate, refurbish, if necessary, the fire station in order to set up/upgrade the municipal fire department.

### **Current situation**

The state of the fire station requires short, medium and long-term investments to bring them up to standard and, above all, to make our buildings safe.

The fire station must comply in all respects with the regulation respecting occupational health and safety and the act respecting occupational health and safety.

We are building fire station for the next 30 to 40 years. The average age of the 4 fire stations is 60 years.

### **Vehicles**

The orientations of the Ministry of Public Security, in regards to fire safety, specify that the degree of effectiveness of firefighting interventions is determined, among other things, by the type and condition of the various equipment made available to firefighters. A fire safety service must have the necessary vehicles and accessories and ensure that their manufacture, use and maintenance comply with the standards designed for that purpose.

What is important is to have the right equipment in the right place while respecting the minimum requirements of the risk coverage plan, which is intended to protect the municipality from any risk of potential lawsuits.

### **Occupational health and safety standards**

Several standards are now mandatory in order to adequately protect firefighters both during and after the intervention, i.e. after returning to the fire station. The same is true for the internal organization of the fire station, which requires the presence of changing rooms, showers, sanitary units and the installation of

### **Construction standards for a fire department building**

The construction standards for public buildings require many constraints and obligations in order to protect users and visitors, notably;

Seismic shock resistance, clearances, emergency exits, sprinkler system, sanitary units, access for people with reduced mobility, etc.; and

### **The possible choices that can improve the service offer and the efficiency of your fire department**

The use of the facilities on the premises for purposes other than for the fire department, in particular, as an assembly room for a possible deployment of the emergency measures plan or for training for purposes other than for the fire department, the installation of equipment to improve the well-being and recruitment of firefighters, the exterior finish that meets urban planning requirements, the interior finish that may vary according to the developer's preference using different materials and the surface area of the premises that may vary beyond the minimum requirements.

### **Régie incendie Memphrémagog Est**

The Régie intermunicipale de prévention et protection incendie Memphrémagog Est, is an entity made up of 4 former departments: Stanstead, Stanstead Township, Ayer's Cliff and North Hatley. The Régie incendie Memphrémagog Est, commonly called, is in effect since January 1st, 2018, and serves 10 municipalities on an approximate territory of 650 km<sup>2</sup>.

The new structure consists of a director, a full-time preventionist, 4 operations chiefs and about 100 firefighters. It has at its disposal a fleet of 23 trucks, watercraft and off-highway rescue units.

"The primary objective of the creation of the Régie de l'Est is to allow member municipalities to respond adequately to all the growing demands from the various levels of government while keeping costs under control," said the president, Mr. Martin Primeau, at the time of its creation.

In addition, the Health Authority signs agreements with other partners to always optimize the number of resources deployed during interventions.

Over the next few weeks, the committee formed by the Régie, made up of representatives of municipalities with fire stations and representatives without fire stations, will meet to make recommendations regarding needs, location and financing and/or the monthly payment of a rent that meets the expectations of the parties concerned.

**In this way, the citizen is better protected.**