

New fire protection agreement between
the towns of Rosemère and Blainville

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Please note that, in the event of an emergency, you must dial 911 as usual.

Question 1:

When did this agreement go into effect? And what should a citizen do in an emergency?

Answer:

In an emergency requiring the services of the fire department, simply **dial 911** as usual, for immediate assistance.

This agreement with the Town of Blainville has been in effect since March 7, 2016 and complies with all Québec laws and standards relating to fire protection.

Therefore, services provided by the Blainville fire stations are immediately available to Rosemère residents. This holds true for every facet of fire safety: intervention in the event of a disaster, prevention and public education, inspection, etc.

Question 2:

Why abolish the Rosemère Fire Department?

Answer:

With this agreement, Rosemerites are guaranteed the presence of firefighters at the fire station 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is important to note that the Rosemère Fire Department operated on a part-time on-call basis. This meant that 50% of the time, firefighters were on call, but not present at the fire station.

This agreement will not only improve firefighters' response time and the safety of citizens, but will achieve significant savings as well.

In fact, over the next 20 years, this agreement will save Rosemerites approximately \$30 million. Given an economic context that makes it imperative that we not increase the tax burden on current and future generations of taxpayers, this agreement is beneficial in every regard.

This measure echoes an analysis conducted in 2015 by the strategic working committee established by the Town to study the costs and performance of all municipal departments with an eye to optimizing the budget. This working committee was mentioned in the speech on the 2015 budget.

Question 3:

How does the agreement guarantee citizens greater quality of service?

Answer:

Rosemère citizens can now rely on full-time firefighters (previously part-time) ready to intervene 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is specified in the agreement.

Rosemerites will enjoy more services at a much lower cost.

Question 4:

Will Blainville firefighters be required to cover a much greater distance to intervene in Rosemère? Couldn't this compromise the safety of citizens?

Answer:

The Town of Blainville's southern fire station is located on Bas-de-Sainte-Thérèse Road, less than one kilometre from the Rosemère boundary and close to many road and highway accesses. Firefighters' response time will therefore not be affected.

In fact, with firefighters present at the fire station 24/7, response time will be shortened and the safety of citizens improved.

Moreover, Rosemerites will benefit from faster intervention time at night, at times when, according to statistics provided by the Québec Ministry of Public Security, there is a greater loss of life.

Question 5:

Are there enough Blainville firefighters to ensure the protection of 2 territories?

Answer:

Yes, there are enough. The Town of Blainville has two fire stations with firefighters on the premises 24/7.

This agreement strictly complies with government requirements in terms of fire safety coverage.

Question 6:

What will happen to Rosemère firefighters?**Answer:**

The Town of Rosemère wants it known that this was a very difficult decision to make, given its consequences on the personnel affected. Noting the professionalism with which they have ensured the safety of our community over the years, it wishes to express its profound gratitude for their commitment.

Termination of employment terms have been established for all firefighters.

For a great many of the firefighters, the Rosemère Fire Department was a second job.

This decision was needed, as Rosemère no longer has the financial means to operate its own fire department. It was in the best interests of citizens.

Question 7:***What will happen to our fire station equipment?*****Answer:**

The equipment will be sold, in compliance with the *Cities and Towns Act*. As for the fire station itself, the Town will evaluate its in-house requirements in terms of premises.