

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
MRC VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU
MUNICIPALITY OF LOW
BYLAW #003-2014 CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF
AND PROTECTION FROM FIRE EMERGENCIES

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WHEREAS the Fire Risk Coverage Plan requires municipal fire services to implement a prevention programme;

WHEREAS council deems it necessary to implement a prevention program for the benefit of its citizens;

WHEREAS article 62 of the Municipal Powers Act of Quebec provides that a municipality may adopt bylaws in matters of safety;

WHEREAS notice of motion was given by Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling at the regular meeting of council February 3, 2014 to the effect that the present bylaw proposal #003-2014 would be submitted for ratification;

THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED BY councillor...**SECONDED** By councillor ... and resolved that the municipal council statues and ordains the following subject to the approvals required by law:

BYLAW #003-2014 CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF AND PROTECTION FROM FIRE EMERGENCIES

ARTICLE 1 - The preamble forms an integral part of the present bylaw.

ARTICLE 2 – The present bylaw seeks to establish minimal norms to ensure the safety of residents, to prevent material losses and losses of human life due to fire.

CHIMNEY AND FLUE CLEANING

ARTICLE 3 – All property owners are obliged to ensure that their chimneys and flues are cleaned at least once per year if such chimneys and flues have been used in the past 12 months. This responsibility is solely that of the proprietor and no obligation of verification is undertaken by the municipality to that effect.

ARTICLE 4 – If a chimney or flue is deemed a potential danger by the Low Fire Service, the proprietor must execute the work required to ensure the safety of said chimney or flue.

PROTECTION OF FIRE EQUIPMENT

ARTICLE 5- It is prohibited to obstruct access to a hydrant or to obstruct their visibility.

ARTICLE 6 - It is prohibited to use a hydrant for any use other than that of the municipality.

ARTICLE 7 – It is prohibited to paint or alter a hydrant.

INSTALLATION OF FIRE ALARMS

ARTICLE 8 – Fire alarms **must** be installed in each residence. A residential carbon monoxide detector that meets the standards CAN/CGA-6.19-M, **may** (strongly recommended) be installed according to the manufacturer’s instructions in rooms or buildings that feature a wood-burning unit, or in homes heated with gas, propane or oil furnaces.

ARTICLE 9 – Fire alarms **must** be installed between the sleeping area and the rest of the house. If the bedrooms are along a corridor, the fire alarms must be installed in the corridor. Residences that are more than one storey must feature a fire alarm on each storey except in non-heated attics and crawl spaces. Fire alarms must also be installed for each section or part thereof, of a residence that exceeds 1400 square feet.

ARTICLE 10 – Fire alarms must be affixed to the ceiling or close to it in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

ARTICLE 11 – In cases where several fire alarms are attached to one clearly identified electrical circuit, they must be installed so that they all trigger simultaneously.

ARTICLE 12 – Presence of fire alarms

Upon entry into force of the present bylaw, all residences must have the required fire alarms, as per the bylaw.

ARTICLE 13 – Responsibilities of the property owner

The property owner of a building is responsible for installing the required fire alarms as well as ensuring that they are in working order. The property owner is also responsible for all maintenance and replacement of said fire alarms.

ARTICLE 14 – Responsibilities of the occupant

The occupant of a residence or a room that has been renting for six months or more must take measures to ensure that the fire alarms are in working order. If the fire alarm(s) are defective, the occupant must advise the property owner.

VEHICULAR FIRE NON-RESIDENT

ARTICLE 15 – In cases when the intervention of the Low Fire Department is required to attend to a vehicular fire and where the vehicle in the property of a non-resident or non-taxpayer of the municipality, the owner of said vehicle is responsible for covering the entire cost of the intervention borne by the Low Fire department.

ARTICLE 16 – The costs of such an intervention are payable by the vehicle owner (non-resident or non-taxpayer), whether or not they requested the service.

ARTICLE 17 – In cases where the “jaws of life” are required for an accident in which a non-resident is implicated, the difference between the costs assumed by the S.A.A.Q and the total cost of the intervention may be billed to the vehicle owner.

ARTICLE 18 – In cases where the intervention of the Low Fire Department is requested by another authority (police, ambulance, mayor etc..) and which situations are not clearly defined in this bylaw, non-residents or non-taxpayers will be subject to the cost of the intervention.

ENFORCEMENT

ARTICLE 19 – The Chief of the Low Fire Service as well as all members of the department are authorized to make prevention visits between the hours of 8AM and 8PM, to properties subject to this bylaw to ensure that the bylaw is being implemented and respected. In this regard, the property owner or occupant must cooperate in providing the information required by:

1. Allowing the Fire Service representative(s) to verify through an inspection, that the bylaw is correctly applied;
2. Assisting the Fire Service representative(s) by providing the information required at the door and signing the form.

ARTICLE 20 – No individual may prevent or try to prevent, obstruct or delay the Low Fire Service from conducting a prevention visit.

ARTICLE 21 – the Municipal Inspector or his/her designate is authorised to issue notices of infractions related to articles 4-9 of the present bylaw. Violators may be fined \$50-\$250 for infraction of the articles mentioned herein.

ARTICLE 22 – The Municipal Inspector or his/her designate and the Chief of the Low Fire Service are responsible for ensuring the application of this bylaw.

ARTICLE 23 – The present bylaw repeals and replaces any previous bylaws concerning these issues.

ARTICLE 24 – The present bylaw shall come into force according to the law.

Morris O'Connor
Mayor

Franceska Gnarowski
DG/ST