

Quebec issues reminder about backyard pool safety regulations

Upsurge in pool sales predicted, following COVID-19 pandemic

The Laval News

In view of a drastic increase in backyard swimming pool sales anticipated this summer because of distancing rules made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Quebec Municipal Affairs Ministry has issued a reminder to potential new pool owners about the regulations regarding the installation of this type of equipment in Quebec.

Among other things, the rules state that all new swimming pools must be surrounded by a protective fence, unless it is an above-ground pool with a height of at least 1.2 metres, or at least 1.4 metres in the case of a pool that can be taken apart.

In the case of a protective fence, it must be 1.2 metres high, and must be

able to prevent a spherical object measuring 10 centimetres from passing through. As well, it must be built in such a way as to not facilitate anyone climbing on it.

Rules to be followed

In addition, any access gate to the pool must be equipped with a security mechanism that allows the gate to close and lock automatically. Any patio or terrace adjacent to the pool must be equipped with a surrounding fence and gate in order to restrict access.

A municipal permit is required to build, install or to replace a pool, or to erect any kind of structure giving access to or restricting access to a swimming pool. The ministry noted that municipalities may adopt stricter rules than those contained in the provincial



COURTESY

The Quebec government is reminding pool owners and buyers of provincial safety rules, since backyard pool sales are expected to grow this summer while COVID-19 restrictions remain in place.

regulations. Pool owners are invited to learn more from their respective mu-

nicipal authorities about the local regulations governing swimming pools.

Magog fire safety service virtual residential visits in 2020

Record Staff

As part of the Memphremagog MRC's Risk Management Plan, Magog's fire safety service (Service de sécurité incendie-SSI) makes a visit to every residence on its territory every five years. The purpose of the visits is to sensitize and inform citizens on the measures to be adopted to prevent fires in homes. In particular, they make it possible to validate the presence and compliance of smoke alarms.

This year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SSI is planning a virtual approach to ensure the continuity of the program.

Owners or occupants of dwellings and residences scheduled for inspection in 2020 are being asked to fill out a self-inspection form. This form is available on the Web site at www.ville.magog.qc.ca/visites-residentielles.

This mandatory exercise takes only a few minutes and is automatically forwarded to the fire department.

The completed self-inspection form should be returned by Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020. A confirmation email will be sent to respondents upon receipt of the form. By submitting the form before the deadline, respondents avoid a violation and are eligible to win a portable fire extinguisher.

This data will be compiled by the Fire Department in accordance with regulatory requirements.

To find out if their residence is subject to an inspection in 2020, occupants and owners can enter the street name of their residence in the search engine on the municipality's website. If the address is not included in the area being covered this year, they are not required to complete the self-inspection form.

The Mayor of Magog, Mrs. Vicki-May Hamm, insists on the importance of completing the form online and returning it to the Magog SSI within the prescribed time frame.

"It is an obligation because it is a

matter of public safety and fire prevention. It is all the more important to do so in these times of pandemic and social distancing. The risk of contamination in even minor fires is significant for firefighters and for the citizens involved. I have confidence in all those involved in the 2020 residential visit. I know that, as usual, they will be able to carry out their duty as citizens for their well-being, that of their families and their neighbours," the mayor commented in a press release.

For any questions or information, contact the Fire Department by e-mail at preventionincendie@ville.magog.qc.ca.

Sherbrooke Fire Department combines firefighter integration training with Ambulance de l'Estrie

Submitted by Bruce Porter

The seven-day integration for new temporary firefighters with the Sherbrooke Fire Department ended Tuesday with first responder simula-

tions combined with paramedics from Ambulance de l'Estrie. Firefighters and paramedics have collaborated for several years in mixed training exercises to better understand the roles that their personnel can play under varied

situations. The scenarios included a heart attack, a drug overdose, a worker trapped under a rock in a quarry, an ATV driver thrown down a steep slope, a person in anaphylactic shock (severe allergic reaction) in a forest and a child

drowning in a public pool.

Paramedics tend to the simulated victim trapped under a very large rock while the temporary firefighters use a jack and cribbing to lift the rock enough to free the worker's legs.

Photos are first responder simulations



PHOTOS: BRUCE PORTER