

Storm Debby: The Town of Pincourt Provides an Update

Press Release | August 14, 2024

For immediate release

The torrential rains of Friday August 9 affected the whole of southern Quebec, and thus our own people and teams.

By 8 a.m. on Friday, August 9, 2024, some 70 mm of rain had already fallen. Rainfall then became intermittent, reaching a total of 90 mm by 4:40 pm. By this time, the City's networks and catchment structures were holding firm, and no major issues had been reported.

However, around 5:30 p.m., the significant intensification of rainfall within just two hours added an additional 100 mm of rain to the area. In total, approximately 190 mm of rain fell on Pincourt. Despite the implementation of several preventive measures, a backflow flooding occurred.

Indeed, municipal authorities had been closely monitoring weather conditions for 48 hours and had wisely planned to implement measures to address the potential consequences of a disaster. High-capacity pumps were placed at certain strategic locations, and all the necessary equipment for emergency pumping was ready, available, and operational.

When the disaster site coordinator determined that conditions were rapidly deteriorating, he requested the activation of emergency measures. The Emergency Measures Coordination Center (EMCC) was quickly opened, and several missions were mobilized. In total, 308 calls were handled by the Pincourt and Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot Fire Department alone. This was in addition to the numerous 3-1-1 calls managed by the Public Works Department. A local state of emergency was not declared because the Municipal Civil Security Organization (MCSO) had the resources and capacity to deal with the disaster and its consequences. Nevertheless, clear communication was maintained with the municipal council in case the situation deteriorated to the point where such a declaration would be necessary.

The EMCC and the missions were demobilized around 3 a.m. on Saturday. "In this context, it is important to note that the response of the municipal authorities was well-coordinated, adapted to the nature of the disaster, and in compliance with the current legislative provisions," said Eric Martel, Deputy Coordinator of Civil Security.

More than 250 buildings and residences were flooded, several vehicles were also affected, and two people were rescued as water surrounded their truck. There were no injuries, although the damage inside many buildings is significant.

The recovery will be handled by insurers, and we will have to wait for their reports or those from the Bureau d'assurance du Canada to fully understand the extent of the damage. Infrastructure, buildings, or facilities belonging to the Town were damaged as a result of the disaster.



Recovery Measures, Compensation, and Financial Assistance

In addition to the measures taken by the MRC of Vaudreuil-Soulanges regarding the modification of the region's Ecocentres schedule, a special large waste collection will take place on August 21 in Pincourt, thanks to the collaboration with the subcontractor Matrec.

Furthermore, the Town's teams began yesterday morning an internal collection of construction materials that are not accepted as large waste.

In this regard, the Multimunicipal Civil Security Organization (MSCO) wishes to thank its key partners who provided support before, during, and after the disaster, including Hydro Météo, St. John Ambulance, and the Ministère de la Sécurité publique, particularly the regional office of Civil Security and Fire Safety for Estrie/Montérégie.

While the city and its partners are implementing certain measures, it is important to remind that any property owner with a damaged building must contact their insurer. Unfortunately, the ministerial order and the provisions of the Ministry of Public Security's General Financial Assistance Program do not apply to Pincourt, as the flooding was not caused by the overflow of a watercourse.

For more information, citizens can consult:

- [What to do after a flood](#)

- [Financial assistance for homeowners and tenants in the event of a flood or other disaster](#)



Review of the Annual Event: Firefighters' Day

Resilience is usually assessed by looking at people's, organizations', and entities' ability to cope with disasters and bounce back despite the consequences.

On August 10, the Town of Pincourt demonstrated its resilience through the near-continuous mobilization of the Pincourt and Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot Fire Department, who, before the torrential rain, had to assist their counterparts in Île-Perrot due to a building fire.

With very little rest, many of these firefighters were mobilized to provide emergency services, while a smaller number were focused on completing the preparations for Pincourt's Firefighters' Day.

While helping disaster victims is indeed a priority when a disaster strikes, ensuring the continuity of services for those not affected is another priority. Many volunteers, including municipal employees who were also mobilized the day before, invested themselves to ensure that this event could take place. Celebrating this event was, in a way, a recognition of the resilience of those who have chosen, for the most part, a second

job to help their community in emergencies. About 10,000 citizens also came to celebrate this resilience, as well as their own, since many were also affected by Debby's passage.

What could be more beautiful than celebrating our collective resilience together, knowing that the majority of the event's proceeds are already intended to further help the residents of Pincourt?

For more information:

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