Victoria County
NATURALLY CONNECTED

495 Chebucto Street
Baddeck, Nova Scotia
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t. (902) 295-3231
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Fire Protection Rate Frequently Asked Questions

In 2026, your property tax bill includes a separate line for fire protection services. The 2026 – 2027 fire protection rate is $0.114. Here's what that means for you.

Why is there now a separate fire protection rate?
To provide greater transparency. Separating the fire rate allows residents to clearly see how much of their taxes support fire protection services.

Is this a new tax or fee?
No. Fire protection services have always been funded through your property taxes. This change simply shows that cost as its own line and does not change the level of fire protection service being provided.

Does this mean my taxes increased?
No. Separating the fire protection rate does not increase your taxes on its own. Any change to your total bill is based on the overall municipal budget and property assessment. **The 2026–27 tax rate remains unchanged from the previous year**.

2026 – 2027 Municipal Tax Rates

Property Type	General Rate	Fire Protection Rate	2026 – 2027 Overall Tax Rate*
Residential	$1.036	$0.114	$1.15
Resource	$1.036	$0.114	$1.15
Commercial	$1.976	$0.114	$2.09

*** General Tax Rate + Fire Protection Rate = 2026 – 2027 Overall Tax Rate**

Why wasn't this done before?
Previously, fire protection services were included within the general tax rate. Showing the rate separately reflects a more transparent and modern way of presenting municipal taxation and is common practice across the province.

What does the fire protection rate pay for?
The fire protection rate funds Victoria County's investment in **fire services** and includes:

- direct grants to 11 volunteer fire departments and 3 substations
- hydrant and water supply costs
- shared equipment and infrastructure
- training support
- municipal coordination of fire services

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Do all residents pay the same fire rate?
Yes. Residential, commercial and resource properties pay for the fire protection rate, including properties approved for tax relief grants under the Municipal Grants Program. More information on property classifications can be found on the **Property Valuation Services Corporation** website.

How does the fire protection rate apply to not-for-profit organizations receiving municipal property tax relief grants?
Beginning in 2026, organizations approved for a property tax relief grant will continue to receive relief on the general municipal tax rate but will now be responsible for paying the fire protection rate portion of the tax bill.

Why are not-for-profit organizations required to pay the fire protection rate?
Council has maintained the fire protection rate as a universal charge that applies to all properties, including those receiving tax relief, because it funds core fire protection services delivered across Victoria County.

How is my total property tax calculated?
Your total property tax bill is based on your property's assessed value and the applicable tax rates.

For example, if a residential property is assessed at **$200,000** and the rates are:

- General Tax Rate: $1.036 per $100 of assessment
- Fire Protection Rate: $0.114 per $100 of assessment

The calculation would be:

Tax Component	Calculation	Amount
General Tax Rate	$200,000 ÷ 100 × $1.036	$2,072
Fire Protection Rate	$200,000 ÷ 100 × $0.114	$228
Total Property Tax		**$2,300**

In the above example, organizations approved for a property tax relief grant will receive relief on the general tax amount ($2,072) but will be responsible for paying the fire protection rate portion of the tax bill ($228).

Who can I contact with questions?
If you have questions, please contact the Victoria County Revenue Department from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Phone: (902) 295-3231
Email: countytax@VictoriaCounty.ca
Mailing Address: 495 Chebucto Street, Baddeck, Nova Scotia, B0E 1B0
Property & Taxation Services: https://victoriacounty.com/residents/property-taxation-services/