

NEWS CANADA

Rail activity to resume Wednesday through Lac-Megantic,

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MONTREAL - Freight train service will resume Wednesday in a blast-ravaged Quebec town near the Maine border, but hazardous materials will be banned.

Collette Roy-Laroche, mayor of Lac-Megantic, Que., made the announcement at a news conference on Monday.

Rail carriers will be required to inform the municipality about the content of their convoys at least four hours before they cross through the town 250 km east of Montreal.

A 72-car crude-oil train derailed and exploded on July 6, killing 47 people in Canada's deadliest railway explosion.

The disaster exposed lax security and poor labelling on the part of the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway operated train.

Despite concerns about the safety the tracks were repaired this fall.

Freight service is the lifeblood of Lac-Megantic and surrounding municipalities, and the mayor had promised local businesses that rail service would resume by Christmas.