

Function: Community & Protective Services - 02
Department: Fire Services - 040
Policy #: 007



Fire Emergency Response Cost Recovery


Effective Date: March 9th, 2017

Review Date: March 9th, 2022

References:

Cancel: Policy 707: Fire Emergency Response Cost Recovery

Resolution #: 122-17

CAO Signature: 

Purpose: To provide for consistent cost recovery of Lac Ste. Anne County Fire Services emergency response costs.

Policy Statement: Where Fire Services has taken any action whatsoever for an emergency response within the County for the purpose of preserving life or property from injury or destruction by fire or other incident, Lac Ste. Anne County may charge any costs so incurred by Fire Services as per the current County Fire Bylaw.

Scope: The person who caused the incident; the owner of the land or the person in possession of the land where the incident occurred; the owner of the property where the person in possession and control of the property which is the location of the incident (if not located on private land), may be charged for cost recovery of Fire Services emergency response costs.

Guidelines: Invoicing for Fire Services emergency response costs is outlined as follows:

1. Alberta Transportation shall be invoiced for emergency responses (motor vehicle collisions, grass fires, etc.) on any Provincial Highways in accordance with Alberta Transportation guidelines.

2. Canadian National Railway shall be invoiced for any emergency response with regard to CN right-of-ways, based on Part 5, 6, and 7 of this policy.
3. Vehicle owners may be invoiced for an emergency response with regard to Motor Vehicle Collisions or Vehicle Fires on local County roadways, based on Part 5, 6, and 7 of this policy.
4. The Provincial Government shall be invoiced for an emergency response on land owned by the Province, excepting land(s) lease by Lac Ste. Anne County, based on Part 5, 6, and 7 of this policy.
5. Where Fire Services has taken any action what-so-ever for extinguishing a fire or responding to an emergency on private land within the County for the purpose of preserving life or property from injury or destruction by fire or other factor, cost recovery for the emergency response may be made as follows:
 - a. For any structure, vehicle, or equipment fire on private land, the full cost of response made by the first nearest responding Fire Station, up to and including the second nearest responding Fire Station only shall be invoiced. Any response assistance costs by additional Fire Stations, other than the first two (2) nearest responding Stations, shall not be invoiced unless deemed appropriate by the County Fire Chief.
 - b. Subject to Clause “a”, invoicing shall be as above with the following exceptions having all costs associated with each responding Fire Station invoiced:
 - i) Negligence by the landowner or person in control of the land,
 - ii) Any un-permitted fire ignited by the landowner or person in control of the land that has been allowed to become a running fire (out-of-control),
 - iii) A burn barrel or incinerator ignited by the landowner or person in control of the land that has been allowed to become a running fire (out-of-control),
 - iv) Any fire ignited by the landowner or person in control of the land, or an existing fire that has not been extinguished during a Fire Ban.

6. For any alarm response where services are provided by the first nearest responding Fire Station, up to and including the second nearest responding Fire Station only, shall be invoiced. Alarm responses, where no services are provided, will be invoiced as follows:
 - a. For a first false alarm response in a calendar year, no emergency response costs shall be recovered through invoicing;
 - b. For any false alarm response after an initial recorded false alarm in a calendar year, the full cost of response made by the first nearest responding Fire Station shall be invoiced;
 - c. For alarm or false alarm response assistance, costs by additional Fire Stations shall not be invoiced unless deemed appropriate by the County Fire Chief.
7. Emergency response cost recovery for services provided for mutual aid shall be invoiced in accordance to agreements in place with each mutual aid partner.
8. Emergency response cost recovery for services provided in accordance with other Fire Services agreements in place shall be invoiced as per each agreement.
9. Cost recovery for an emergency response shall include all labour and apparatus hours incurred for the emergency response, from the time a Fire Station is called out by the 9-1-1 Call Centre up to and including the time required to bring utilized apparatus back into service for the next response, unless deemed otherwise by the County Fire Chief.
10. The right to appeal Fire Services emergency response cost recovery invoicing may be made in accordance with the current County Fire Bylaw.