



TITLE: Fire Costs & Charges		ADOPTED BY: Council	NUMBER: FIRE - 3
CREATED FOR: Public	CREATED BY: Margaret McClarty	REVIEWED: May 23, 2023	
<p>PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY</p> <p>To provide a guideline for administration to recover costs or to invoice for fire calls that fire departments have responded to in the Municipal District.</p>			
<p>POLICY STATEMENT</p> <p>All provisions of fire fighting services in the MD will be invoiced to the person who started the fire or to the owner of the land where the fire started, (if different) or both.</p>			
<p>BACKGROUND</p> <p>In addition to the MD's own Fire Department; the MD has entered into Mutual Aid Agreements with municipal neighbors and Fire Fighting Services Agreements with the Town of Grimshaw and the Town of Peace River. Therefore within the MD, fire fighting services may be rendered by the MD's Fire Department, one of our mutual aid partners, the Town of Grimshaw, or the Town of Peace River. Generally, whenever a mutual aid partner or service provider (Town of Grimshaw or the Town of Peace River) provide fire fighting services within the MD of Peace No. 135 they invoice us for their services.</p> <p>Council feels that any firefighting costs incurred (from our mutual aid partners or service providers) should be paid for by the person who started the fire, as apposed to all taxpayers in the MD, as is the case when municipal taxation pays for Fire Fighting Services. Further Council is keenly aware of the considerable costs associated with operating a fire department and providing fire fighting services. Council wishes to offset those costs when appropriate. Therefore when the MD's own Fire Department is called upon to provide fire fighting services, those services shall be invoiced to the person who started the fire. The rates at which the services will be invoiced is as per the MD's current "Fees and Charges Bylaw".</p>			
<p>IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>Landowners or renters who use fire fighting services will be invoiced for those services. The invoice will likely include costs that were first invoiced to the MD by one of our mutual aid partners or service providers PLUS the cost of the MD's own response.</p>			
<p>RIGHT TO APPEAL</p> <p>Within 30 days of being mailed an invoice for fire charges and/or fines, if the person charged feels he/she cannot pay the fees, he/she may appeal in person to the Municipal Council. The decision of Council will be final and binding. Anyone wishing to appeal to Council must first contact the CAO to arrange to be put on the agenda for a future Council Meeting.</p>			



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MISCELLANEOUS

The delivery of fire services within the MD will be governed by the MD's Fire Services Bylaw 8/2023. As such, invoices amounts that are not paid in accordance with Bylaw 8/2023 will be levied against the land where the fire originated, as taxes due and owing.

Costs for volunteer fire department responses to all motor vehicle accidents (MVA) on provincial highways will continue to be invoiced directly to Alberta Transportation.

Should the MD's volunteer fire departments respond to a mutual aid call in a neighboring municipality, the MD will invoice that municipality as per the applicable Mutual Aid Agreement rates.