

## **RESOLUTION NO. 610**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAM TO CHARGE MITIGATION RATES FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED/RENDERED FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS.**

WHEREAS, the cost of emergency and non-emergency services response activity to incidents continues to increase each year. Additional Environmental Protection requirements involving equipment and training, and Homeland Security regulations involving equipment and training create additional demands on all operational aspects of the fire department services; and

WHEREAS, the fire department has investigated different methods to maintain a high level of quality of emergency and non-emergency service capability throughout times of constantly increasing service demands, where maintaining an effective response by the fire department decreases the costs of incidents to insurance carriers, businesses, and individuals through timely and effective management of emergency situations, saving lives and reducing property and environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Columbus Fire Department desire to implement a fair and equitable procedure by which to collect said mitigation rates and shall establish a billing system in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and guidelines;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS:**

SECTION 1. Resolution No.600 shall be repealed.

SECTION 2: The Columbus Fire Department shall initiate mitigation rates for the delivery of emergency and non-emergency services by the fire department for personnel, supplies and equipment to the scene of emergency and non-emergency incidents as listed in "EXHIBIT A". The mitigation rates shall be based on actual costs of the services and that which is usual, customary and reasonable (UCR) as shown in "EXHIBIT A", which may include any services, personnel, supplies, and equipment and with baselines established by addendum to this document.

SECTION 3: A claim shall be filed to the responsible party(s) through their insurance carrier. In some circumstances, the responsible party(s) will be billed directly. This resolution excludes insurance recovery claims that are handled by the City of Columbus directly, per ordinance (Ordinance 1395) which reflects K.S.A. 40-3901.

SECTION 4: The Governing Body may make rules or regulations and from time to time may amend, revoke, or add rules and regulations, not consistent with this Section, as they may deem necessary or expedient in respect to billing for these mitigation rates or the collection thereof.

SECTION 5: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Governing Body concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in open meetings of the Governing Body, and that all deliberations of the Governing Body and any of its committees that resulted in such formal

actions were in accordance with all legal requirements, and the Codified Ordinances of the City of Columbus, Kansas.

SECTION 6: The Mitigation Rates lists in Exhibit A will increase by 1.5% annually or based on the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, whichever is more. Rate adjustments will occur on the anniversary date of this ordinance/resolution to keep the fire department's cost recovery program in conformity with increasing operating expenses.

SECTION 7. The City shall pursue a private contract for recovery services seeking reimbursement that serves to mitigate expenses of emergency response services and incorporates by reference a Services Agreement with Fire Recovery USA LLC, Schedule "A" List of Company Services, and Exhibit "A" Mitigation Rates.

SECTION 8: This Resolution shall take effect thirty days (30) from the date of adoption as permitted by law.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the City of Columbus, Kansas, adopts the attached, incorporated .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Columbus shall pursue a private contract for recovery services.

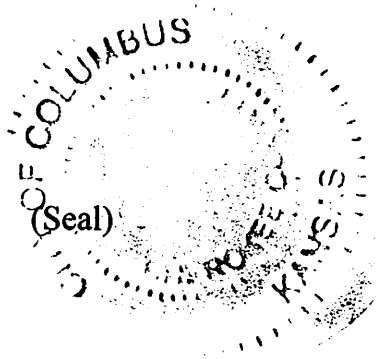
PASSED AND APPROVED by the Governing Body of the City of Columbus, Kansas, this 7th day of June, 2021.

CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grant Spieth, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cherri Chancellor, City Clerk



## SERVICES AGREEMENT

This Services Agreement ("Agreement") is made effective as of June 7, 2021 ("Effective Date"), by and between **FIRE RECOVERY USA, LLC**, a California limited liability company ("Company"), and **Columbus Fire Department**, ("Client"). The Company and Client are referred to herein individually as a "party" and collectively as the "parties."

### RECITALS

WHEREAS, Company engages in the business of performing billing services ("Company Services") for United States Fire Departments in connection with the motor vehicle incidents and other emergency incidents at which the Client provides emergency services: and

WHEREAS, Client seeks the services of Company to assist with the billing for services that Client provides in connection with motor vehicle incidents and other emergency incidents; and

WHEREAS, Company and Client desire to enter into this Agreement to memorialize their agreements regarding the Company Services to be provided to Client.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual representations, warranties and covenants set forth herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Company and Client agree as follows:

### ARTICLE 1 ENGAGEMENT

1.1. Engagement: Client hereby engages Company to provide the Company Services described in Article 4 herein, and Client hereby accepts such engagement, all on the terms and conditions set forth herein. Company will determine the method, detail and means of performing the services detailed below.

### ARTICLE 2 REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

2.1. Representations and Warranties of Company: Company hereby represents and warrants to Client that, at all times during the term of this Agreement, Company is a limited liability company duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of California.

2.2. Representations and Warranties of Client: Client hereby represents and warrants to Company that, at all times during the term of this Agreement, Client is, or Governs, or Contracts with an organized fire department established pursuant to the laws and ordinances of the state in which Client is located.

**ARTICLE 3  
COMPANY STATUS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

3.1. Independent Contractor: Company enters into this Agreement, and will remain throughout the term of the Agreement, as an independent contractor. Company agrees that it will not become an employee, partner, agent or principal of Client while this Agreement is in effect.

3.2. Payment of Income Taxes: Company is responsible for paying when due all income taxes, including estimated taxes, incurred as a result of the compensation paid by Client to Company for services rendered under this Agreement. On request, Company will provide Client with proof of timely payment. Company agrees to indemnify Client for any claims, costs, losses, fees, penalties, interest, or damages suffered by Client resulting from Company's failure to comply with this provision.

3.3. Use of Employees or Subcontractors: Company may, at Company's own expense, use any employees or subcontractors as Company deems necessary to perform the services required of Company by this Agreement. Client may not control, direct, or supervise Company's employees or subcontractors in the performance of those services.

3.4. Qualifications: Company represents that it is qualified and has the skills necessary to perform the services under this Agreement in a competent and professional manner, without the advice or direction of Client.

3.5. Ownership Interest: Company will have no ownership interest in Client.

3.6. No Benefit Contributions: Company shall have no obligation under this Agreement to compensate or pay applicable taxes or provide employee benefits of any kind to any person employed or retained by Client.

3.7. Attorney-in-Fact: Client appoints Company as Client's attorney-in-fact for the following purposes:

- (a) Billing and Collections: To bill and collect ("Collections") all revenue earned by and due to Client, in connection with Client's provision of emergency services provided/rendered at the sites of motor vehicle incidents and other emergency incidents, and to receive all Collections on Client's behalf and to sue for and give satisfaction for monies due on account and to withdraw any claims, suits, or proceedings pertaining to or arising out of Company's or Client's right to collect such amounts; and
- (b) Endorsement: To take possession of and endorse in Client's name any notes, checks, money orders, and any other instruments received as Collections.

**ARTICLE 4  
GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPANY**

4.1. Minimum Amount of Service: Company agrees to devote as much time and attention to the performance of the Company Services under this Agreement as may be, in Company's sole discretion, required to accomplish the tasks described herein to accomplish the results for which the Company is responsible under this Agreement.

4.2. Company Services: Company agrees to perform the Company Services as set forth in the "List of Company Services" attached hereto as Schedule "A" and incorporated herein by reference; including those additional services requested by Client and accepted in writing by the Company during the term of this Agreement.

4.3. Non-Exclusive Relationship: Company may represent, perform services for, and contract with as many additional clients, persons, or companies as Company, in Company's sole discretion, sees fit.

4.4. Time and Place of Performing Work: Company may perform the services under this Agreement at any suitable time and location Company chooses.

4.5. Materials and Equipment: Company will supply all materials and equipment required to perform the services under this Agreement.

4.6. Workers' Compensation: Company agrees to provide workers' compensation insurance for Company and Company's employees and agents and agrees to hold harmless and indemnify Client for any and all claims arising out of any injury, disability, or death of any of Company's employees or agents.

4.7. Assignment: Neither this Agreement nor any duties or obligations under this Agreement may be assigned by Company without the prior written consent of Client, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

## **ARTICLE 5 COMPENSATION OF COMPANY**

5.1. Compensation for Company Services: All Company Services provided pursuant to this Agreement will be provided in accordance with the terms, including compensation amounts and schedule of remittance, set forth in the "List of Company Services," attached hereto as Schedule A.

5.2. The provisions of Article 11 of this Agreement will govern any dispute associated with compensation.

## **ARTICLE 6 OBLIGATIONS OF CLIENT**

6.1. Cooperation of Client: The Client agrees to comply with all reasonable requests of Company and provide access to all documents reasonably necessary to the performance of Company's duties under this Agreement. The Client shall be responsible for initially insuring, and continuing to review, local and state laws in the Client's jurisdiction to assure adequate legal authority for Company to engage in the Services described herein on behalf of Client.

6.2. Assignment: Once a run is assigned to Company for processing, Company will pursue collection until all efforts have been exhausted. While Company is pursuing payment on a claim Client is precluded from assigning any duties or obligations under this Agreement to any other party, without the written consent of Company. Client may not negotiate a settlement of a run Company is processing without Company's written consent to the terms of the settlement and compensation due to Company for processing the run. Once Company has determined a run is not collectible it will either be archived and closed or sent to a collection agency (only if Client chooses to do so). Sending an account to collection incurs additional fees to Client. If payment is received from a collection agency, the amount received will be posted to Client's account by Company. Company will reimburse Client at the rate set forth in Schedule A, List of Company Services for that particular run, minus any additional fees from the collection agency.

## **ARTICLE 7 CLIENT AUTHORIZATION**

7.1. Authorization: Notwithstanding other provisions of this Agreement, Company shall obtain authorization from Client prior to performing any of the following:

- (a) The sale conveyance, transfer, pledge exchange, assignment, hypothecation, or encumbrance of Client's interest in any sums owed to Client; and
- (b) All other limitations as stated by the terms of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 8 TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

8.1. Termination on Notice: Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, either party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving thirty days (30) written notice to the other party. Unless earlier terminated as set forth below, this Agreement shall be effective as of the date first set out above and shall continue for a period of one (1) year thereafter. This Agreement shall automatically renew for successive one (1) year periods, unless either party provides written notification to the other party of its decision not to renew this Agreement. Any runs submitted for processing to Company prior to the date of the notice of termination will continue to be processed under the terms of the List of Company Services set forth in this Agreement.

8.2. Termination on Occurrence of Stated Events: This Agreement will terminate automatically on the occurrence of any of the following events;

- (a) Bankruptcy or insolvency of either party;
- (b) The assignment of this Agreement by either party without the consent of the other party; the parties agree that neither party will unreasonably withhold consent to such an assignment.

8.3. Termination for Default: If either party defaults in the performance of this Agreement or materially breaches any of its provisions, the non-breaching party may terminate this Agreement by giving written notification to the breaching party. Termination will take effect immediately on receipt of notice by the breaching party or five days (5) after mailing of notice,

whichever occurs first. For the purposes of this paragraph, material breach of this Agreement includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Company's failure to complete the services specified in the Description of Services;
- (b) Client's material breach of any representation, warranty or agreement contained in this Agreement;
- (c) Company's material breach of any representation, warranty or agreement contained in this Agreement;
- (d) Client's yearly billable run volume is at or below six runs (6).

## **ARTICLE 9 PROPRIETARY RIGHTS**

9.1. Confidential Information: Any written, printed, graphic, or electronically or magnetically recorded information furnished by Client for Company's use are the sole property of Client. This proprietary information includes, but is not limited to, customer requirements, customer lists, marketing information, and information concerning the Client's employees, products, services, prices, operations, and subsidiaries. Company will keep this confidential information in the strictest confidence, and will not disclose it by any means to any person except with the Client's approval, and only to the extent necessary to perform the services under this Agreement. This prohibition also applies to Company's employees, agents, and subcontractors. On termination of this Agreement, Company will return any confidential information in Company's possession to Client.

9.2 Confidential Information: Any written, printed, graphic, electronically or magnetically recorded information, computer-based hardware, software, applications, software scripts, or software links furnished by Company for Client's use are the sole property of Company. This proprietary information includes, but is not limited to, customer requirements, customer lists, marketing information, and information concerning the Company's employees, products, services, prices, operations, and subsidiaries. Client will keep this confidential information in the strictest confidence, and will not disclose it by any means to any person except with the Company's approval, and only to the extent necessary to perform the services under this Agreement. This prohibition also applies to Client's employees, agents, and subcontractors. On termination of this Agreement, Client will return any confidential information in Client's possession to Company.

## **ARTICLE 10 INDEMNIFICATION**

10.1. Indemnification: To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Company will indemnify and hold the Client harmless from and against any and all loss, damage, liability, claims and/or injury resulting from all negligent actions performed by the Company, or its agents on the Company's behalf, in connection with this Agreement. However, this indemnification shall not apply with respect to any legal cause, action or consequential liability or losses as a result from

inaccurate or incomplete information or unfounded or unreasonable submissions furnished to the Company by the Client nor shall it apply to any act, omission or negligence of the Client.

**ARTICLE 11  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

11.1. Governing Law: This Agreement shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of California, without giving effect to any choice or conflict of law provision or rule (whether of the State of California or any other jurisdiction that would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of California).

11.2. Entire Agreement: This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties pertaining to the subject matter contained in it and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements, representations, and understanding of the parties.

11.3. Successors and Assigns: Except as otherwise provided herein, the provisions hereof shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the successors, assigns, heirs, executors and administrators of the parties hereto. No party may assign any of its rights or obligations hereunder without the express written consent of the other party hereto, which consent may not be unreasonably withheld; provided, however, any party may assign any and all of its rights and interests hereunder to one or more of its affiliates and designate one or more of its affiliates to perform its obligations hereunder; provided, however, that such party remains liable for full and total performance of its obligations hereunder.

11.4. Notices: Any notices authorized to be given hereunder shall be in writing and deemed given, if delivered personally or by overnight courier, on the date of delivery, if a Business Day, or if not a business day, on the first Business Day following delivery, or if mailed, three days after mailing by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and in each case, addressed, as follows:

If to the Company to:

Fire Recovery USA, LLC  
2271 Lava Ridge Court, Suite 120  
Roseville CA 95661  
Attention: Craig Nagler

with a copy to:

The Watkins Firm, APC  
4275 Executive Square, Suite 1020  
La Jolla, CA 92037  
Attention: Chris Popov, Esq.

If to Client to:

Columbus Fire Department  
300 E Maple  
Columbus, KS 66725  
Attention: FIRE CHIEF

with a copy to:

Columbus City Hall  
300 E Maple  
Columbus, KS 66725  
Attention: CITY CLERK

Or, if delivered by telecopy, on a Business Day before 4:00 PM local time of addressee, on transmission confirmed electronically, or if at any other time or day on the first Business Day succeeding transmission confirmed electronically, to the facsimile numbers provided above, or to such other address or telecopy number as any party shall specify to the other, pursuant to the foregoing notice provisions. When used in this Agreement, the term "Business Day" shall mean a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or a Federal Holiday.



11.5. Waiver; Amendments: This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement of the parties respecting the subject matter hereof, (ii) supersede any prior and contemporaneous understandings, agreements, or representations by or among the parties, written or oral, to the extent they related in any way to the subject matter hereof, and (iii) may not be amended orally, and no right or obligation of any party may be altered, except as expressly set forth in a writing signed by such party.

11.6. Counterparts: This Agreement may be signed in several counterparts.

11.7. Expenses: Each party shall bear its own expenses incurred with respect to the preparation of this Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby.

11.8. Arbitration:

(a) If at any time there shall be a dispute arising out of or relating to any provision of this Agreement, any Transaction Document or any agreement contemplated hereby or thereby, such dispute shall be submitted for binding and final determination by arbitration in accordance with the regulations then obtaining of the American Arbitration Association. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator(s) resulting from such arbitration shall be in writing, and shall be final and binding upon all involved parties. The site of any arbitration shall be at a site agreed to by the parties and the arbitration decision can be enforced in a "court of competent jurisdiction".

(b) This arbitration clause shall survive the termination of this Agreement, any Transaction Document and any agreement contemplated hereby or thereby.

11.9. Waiver of Jury Trial; Exemplary Damages: THE PARTIES HERETO HEREBY WAIVE THEIR RIGHTS TO TRIAL BY JURY WITH RESPECT TO ANY DISPUTE ARISING UNDER THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY TRANSACTION DOCUMENT. NO PARTY SHALL BE AWARDED PUNITIVE OR OTHER EXEMPLARY DAMAGES RESPECTING ANY DISPUTE ARISING UNDER THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY TRANSACTION DOCUMENT CONTEMPLATED HEREBY.

11.10 Cooperative Purchases: This Agreement may be used by other government agencies. Company has agreed to offer similar serves to other agencies under the same or similar terms and conditions as stated herein except that the revenue share percentage (Compensation) may be negotiated between the Company and other agencies based on the specific revenue expectations, agency reimbursed costs, and other agency requirements. The City/County/or Client/Protection District will in no way whatsoever incur any liability in relation to specifications, delivery, payment, or any other aspect of purchase by other agencies.

*Signatures on following page:*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

**COMPANY:**

**FIRE RECOVERY USA, LLC.**  
**a California limited liability company**

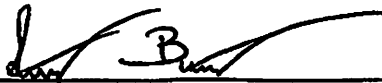
Signature: M. Craig Nagler

Name: M. Craig Nagler

Title: Manager

**CLIENT:**

**Columbus Fire Department**

Signature: 

Name (printed): STEVEN BURTON

Title: Fire CHIEF

## **SCHEDULE A**

### **LIST OF COMPANY SERVICES**

1. Company agrees to bill the responsible party on the Client's behalf for services provided/rendered during motor vehicle incidents and other emergency incidents. The Mitigation Rates lists in Exhibit A will increase by 1.5% annually or based on the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, whichever is more. Rate adjustments will occur on the anniversary date of this ordinance/resolution to keep the fire department's cost recovery program in conformity with increasing operating expenses.
  
2. Company will provide, as a normal matter of business; entry of claims and submission to the responsible party, collections of monies deemed due to the Client, payments of the agreed upon percentage of said monies to Client, and reporting of progress.
  
3. Company agrees to bill to the best of its ability all claims provided to Company by the Client.
  
4. Company will not begin litigation against a person, entity, or insurance carrier without prior written approval by the Client.
  
5. Company agrees to reimburse Client a portion of the monies collected at a rate of 78% (seventy-eight percent) of the total monies collected on the Client's claims. Total monies collected will be net, after any credit card processing fees (charged at 4%) or any collection agency fees. If Client submits a claim to Company and later wants to cancel the claim, Client may be subject to a billing fee. If Client agrees to submit a claim to Company's collection agency and later wants to remove it from collection status, Client may be subject to a fee of up to 35% of the amount of the claim to compensate for efforts made to collect the claim.
  
6. Company agrees to pay these monies collected to the Client on a monthly basis, within seven (7) working days after the close and accounting of the monthly billing cycle.
  
7. Company agrees to make available reports via a password protected website to the Client which detail billable claims outstanding (which are claims submitted, but not yet completed) and claims completed in the prior billing cycle.
  
8. Company will not be responsible for, nor accept any liability for, any erroneous, invalid, or illegal procedure codes or claims submitted to Company by the Client on the Run Sheets.

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **MITIGATION RATES**

#### **BASED ON PER HOUR**

The mitigation rates below are average "billing levels", and are typical for the incident responses listed, however, when a claim is submitted, it may be itemized and based on the actual services provided.

These rates are based on actual costs using amortized schedules for apparatus (including useful life, equipment, repairs, and maintenance). Labor rates include an average department's actual burdened labor costs and not just a firefighter's wage. These include wages, retirement, benefits, workers comp, etc.

#### **MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS**

##### **Level 1 - \$516.00**

Provide hazardous materials assessment and scene stabilization. This will be the most common "billing level". This occurs almost every time the fire department responds to an accident/incident.

##### **Level 2 - \$588.00**

Includes Level 1 services as well as clean up and material used (sorbents) for hazardous fluid clean up and disposal. We will bill at this level if the fire department has to clean up any gasoline or other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of the accident/incident.

##### **Level 3 – CAR FIRE - \$718.00**

Provide scene safety, fire suppression, breathing air, rescue tools, hand tools, hose, tip use, foam, structure protection, and clean up gasoline or other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of the accident/incident.

#### **ADD-ON SERVICES:**

##### **Extrication - \$1,550.00**

Includes heavy rescue tools, ropes, airbags, cribbing etc. This charge will be added if the fire department has to free/remove anyone from the vehicle(s) using any equipment. We will not bill at this level if the patient is simply unconscious and fire department is able to open the door to access the patient. This level is to be billed only if equipment is deployed.

##### **Creating a Landing Zone - \$474.00**

Includes Air Care (multi-engine company response, mutual aid, helicopter). We will bill at this level any time a helicopter landing zone is created and/or is utilized to transport the patient(s).

**Itemized Response:** You have the option to bill each incident as an independent event with custom mitigation rates, for each incident using, itemized rates deemed usual, customary and reasonable (UCR). These incidents will be billed, itemized per apparatus, per personnel, plus products and equipment used.

## **HAZMAT**

### **Level 1 - \$832.00**

**Basic Response:** Claim will include engine response, first responder assignment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, set-up and command.

### **Level 2 - \$2,971.00**

**Intermediate Response:** Claim will include engine response, first responder assignment, hazmat certified team and appropriate equipment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, set-up and command, Level A or B suit donning, breathing air and detection equipment. Set-up and removal of decon center.

### **Level 3 – \$7,012.00**

**Advanced Response:** Claim will include engine response, first responder assignment, hazmat certified team and appropriate equipment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, first responder set-up and command, Level A or B suit donning, breathing air and detection equipment and robot deployment. Set-up and removal of decon center, detection equipment, recovery and identification of material. Disposal and environment clean up. Includes above in addition to any disposal rates of material and contaminated equipment and material used at scene. Includes 3 hours of on scene time - **each additional hour @ \$336.00 per HAZMAT team.**

## **FIRE INVESTIGATION**

**Fire Investigation Team - \$327.00 per hour.**

**Includes:**

- Scene Safety
- Investigation
- Source Identification
- K-9/Arson Dog Unit
- Identification Equipment
- Mobile Detection Unit
- Fire Report

**The claim begins when the Fire Investigator responds to the incident and is billed for logged time only.**

## **FIRES**

**Assignment - \$475.00 per hour, per engine / \$594.00 per hour, per truck**

**Includes:**

- Scene Safety
- Investigation
- Fire / Hazard Control

This will be the most common "billing level". This occurs almost every time the fire department responds to an incident.

**OPTIONAL: A fire department has the option to bill each fire as an independent event with custom mitigation rates.**

**Itemized, per person, at various pay levels and for itemized products use.**

### **ILLEGAL FIRES**

**Assignment - \$475.00 per hour, per engine / \$594.00 per hour, per truck**

When a fire is started by any person or persons that requires a fire department response during a time or season when fires are regulated or controlled by local or state rules, provisions or ordinances because of pollution or fire danger concerns, such person or persons will be liable for the fire department response at a cost not to exceed the actual expenses incurred by the fire department to respond and contain the fire. Similarly, if a fire is started where permits are required for such a fire and the permit was not obtained and the fire department is required to respond to contain the fire the responsible party will be liable for the response at a cost not to exceed the actual expenses incurred by the fire department. The actual expenses will include direct labor, equipment costs and any other costs that can be reasonably allocated to the cost of the response.

### **WATER INCIDENTS**

#### **Level 1**

**Basic Response:** Claim will include engine response, first responder assignment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, first responder set-up and command, scene safety and investigation (including possible patient contact, hazard control). This will be the most common "billing level". This occurs almost every time the fire department responds to a water incident.

**Billed at \$475 plus \$59 per hour, per rescue person.**

#### **Level 2**

**Intermediate Response:** Includes Level 1 services as well as clean up and material used (sorbents), minor hazardous clean up and disposal. We will bill at this level if the fire department has to clean up small amounts of gasoline or other fluids that are spilled as a result of the incident.

**Billed at \$950 plus \$59 per hour, per rescue person.**

#### **Level 3**

**Advanced Response:** Includes Level 1 and Level 2 services as well as D.A.R.T. activation, donning breathing apparatus and detection equipment. Set up and removal of decon center, detection equipment, recovery and identification of material. Disposal and environment clean up. Includes above in addition to any disposal rates of material and contaminated equipment and material used at scene.

**Billed at \$2,350 plus \$59 per hour per rescue person, plus \$119 per hour per HAZMAT team member.**

**Level 4**

**Itemized Response:** You have the option to bill each incident as an independent event with custom mitigation rates for each incident using itemized rates deemed usual, customary and reasonable (UCR). These incidents will be billed, itemized, per trained rescue person, plus rescue products used.

**BACK COUNTRY OR SPECIAL RESCUE**

**Itemized Response:** Each incident will be billed with custom mitigation rates deemed usual, customary and reasonable (UCR). These incidents will be billed, itemized per apparatus per hour, per trained rescue person per hour, plus rescue products used.

**Minimum billed \$475 for the first response vehicle plus \$59 per rescue person. Additional rates of \$475 per hour per response vehicle and \$59 per hour per rescue person.**

**CHIEF RESPONSE**

This includes the set-up of Command, and providing direction of the incident. This could include operations, safety, and administration of the incident.

**Billed at \$297 per hour.**

**MISCELLANEOUS / ADDITIONAL TIME ON-SCENE**

**ADDITIONAL TIME ON-SCENE** (for all levels of service) Engine billed at \$475 per hour.  
Truck billed at \$594 per hour. Miscellaneous equipment billed at \$357.

**MITIGATION RATE NOTES**

The mitigation rates above are average "billing levels" for one hour of service, and are typical for the incident responses listed, however, when a claim is submitted, it may be itemized and based on the actual services provided.

These average mitigation rates were determined by itemizing costs for a typical run (from the time a fire apparatus leaves the station until it returns to the station) and

are based on the actual costs, using amortized schedules for apparatus (including useful life, equipment, repairs, and maintenance) and labor rates (an average department's "actual personnel expense" and not just a firefighter's basic wage). The actual personnel expense includes costs such as wages, retirement, benefits, workers comp, insurance, etc.