



NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 2009-05

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAM TO RECOVER COSTS FOR RESPONSE BY THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO CERTAIN INCIDENTS.

WHEREAS, the North County Fire Protection District's response activity to incidents on the highways continues to increase each year; Environmental Protection requirements involving equipment and training and Homeland Security regulations involving equipment and training, create additional demands on all operational aspects of the North County Fire Protection District; and

WHEREAS, the North County Fire Protection District has investigated different methods to maintain a high level of quality of emergency service capability throughout times of constantly increasing service demands and decreasing revenue while maintaining an effective response by the North County Fire Protection District; and

WHEREAS, cost effective, specific response costs to users decreases the costs of incidents to insurance carriers through timely and effective management of emergency situations, saving lives and reducing property damage; and

WHEREAS, the California Vehicle Code (CVC 17300-17303) allows fire departments to recover costs incurred responding to motor vehicle accidents; including response equipment and manpower to secure, cleanup and/or dispose of any hazardous waste; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the North County Fire Protection District desires to implement a fair and equitable procedure by which to recover said MVA costs and shall establish a billing system in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:

SECTION 1: The North County Fire Protection District shall initiate a cost recovery program for the delivery of Fire and Rescue Services, personnel, supplies and equipment to the scene of motor vehicle accidents and other incidents on the highways. The rate of user fees shall be 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. The cost recovery program will apply to all responses to motor vehicle incidents occurring within the District.



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SECTION 2: The cost recovery fee shall be filed with the responsible party's motor vehicle insurance carrier, representing the cost of the claim to damages of the vehicles, property and/or injuries. In the event services are required relating to utilities causing safety problems to highway areas and if the area is deemed unsafe by emergency responders, the same billing process shall apply to said utility, whose equipment related problems cause an emergency services response. The claim costs shall be filed with the insurance carrier of the owner of a vehicle, owner of property or responsible parties.

SECTION 3: The North County Fire Protection District Board of Directors authorizes the Fire Chief/CEO to take the necessary steps to implement this cost recovery program including development of the necessary policies and procedures and entering into a contract with a billing service to perform the actual cost recovery activity.

SECTION 4: This cost recovery program shall take effect at the earliest time permitted by law.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND SIGNED by the Board of Directors, North County Fire Protection District, County of San Diego, State of California, on this 28TH Day of April, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Harris, Hooper, Munson, Schaden and Thuner

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

RECUSED: None

Kenneth Munson,
Board President



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ATTEST:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of the North County Fire Protection District thereof held on the 28TH day of April, 2009, and that the same now appears on record in my office.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affixed by official seal this 28TH day of April, 2009.

Loren A. Stephen-Porter
Board Secretary



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EXHIBIT "A"

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

1. Level 1 - \$435.00:

This includes scene safety and investigation (including traffic control, patient contact and hazard control). This will be the minimum billing level. This occurs almost every time North County Fire Protection District responds to an accident.

2. Level 2 - \$495.00:

This includes Level 1 Services as well as clean up and materials (sorbents used, hazardous clean up and disposal). This applies if North County Fire Protection District has to clean-up any gasoline or other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of the accident.

3. Level 3 – CAR FIRE - \$605.00:

This includes Scene Safety, Fire Suppression, Breathing Air, Rescue Tools, Hand Tools, Hose, Tip Use, Foam, Structure Protection clean-up of gasoline or other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of the accident.

4. Level 4 - \$1,800.00:

This includes Level 1 & 2 Services as well as Extrication (heavy rescue tools, ropes, airbags, cribbing etc.). These charges will apply if North County Fire Protection District has to free/remove anyone from the vehicle(s) using any equipment. This does not apply if the patient is simply unconscious and North County Fire Protection District is able to open the door to access the patient. This level is to be billed only if equipment is deployed.

5. Level 5 - \$2,100.00:

This includes Levels 1, 2, & 3 Services as well as Air Care (multi-engine company response, mutual aid helicopter). This change will apply any time a helicopter is utilized to transport the patient(s).



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EXHIBIT "A"

HAZ-MAT

1. Level 1 - \$700.00:

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

2. Level 2 - \$2,500.00:

2.1. **Intermediate Response:** Billing will include engine response, first response team, Haz-Mat 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. Set-up and removal of DECON center and wash down.

3. Level 3 – \$5,900.00 plus disposal fees (see below):

3.1. **Advanced Response:** Billing will include engine response, first response team, Haz-Mat 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 and wash down. The detection, recovery and identification of materials, disposal and environment clean-up. This includes above in addition to any disposal fees of material and contaminated equipment and material used at scene. This includes three (3) hours of on scene time; **each additional hour @ \$300.00 per Haz-Mat team.**

PIPELINE BREAKAGE / REPAIRS

(Includes, but not limited to: Gas, Sewer, Septic to Sewer and Water Pipelines)

1. Level 1 - \$400.00:

1.1. **Basic Response:** Billing will include engine response, first response team, perimeter establishment, evacuations, first responder set-up and command, pipeline inspection without damage or breakage.



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EXHIBIT "A"

2. Level 2 - \$1,000.00:

2.1. **Intermediate Response:** Billing will include engine response, first response team appropriate equipment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, first responder set-up and command. This may include Haz-Mat team, Level A or B suit dawning, breathing air and detection equipment. Supervise and/or assist pipeline repair.

3. Level 3 – Itemized Billing Charges:

3.1. **Advanced Response:** Billing will include engine response, first response team appropriate equipment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, first responder set-up and command. This may include Haz-Mat team, Level A or B suit dawning, breathing air and detection equipment. Supervise and/or assist pipeline repair of intermediate to major pipeline damage. May include set-up and removal of DECON center and wash down. The detection, recovery and identification of material, disposal and environment clean-up.