

Policy statement

Leduc County establishes standards for utilizing cost recovery when responding to emergencies with the County's Fire Service. The policy provides a consistent and transparent approach to when cost recovery should be applied.

Definitions

Administration means the staff of Leduc County under the direction of the county manager.

At-fault driver means the person at fault of the accident based on the RCMP/police report or additional information provided by insurance companies.

Cost recovery means all labour and apparatus hours incurred for the emergency response. This is from the time a fire station is dispatched by a 9-1-1 call Centre and up to the time required to bring the utilized apparatus back into service for the next response, unless deemed otherwise by the County Fire Chief.

County means the municipality of Leduc County in the Province of Alberta.

County resident means a person that is operating the vehicle involved in the collision has a valid driver's license indicating their primary residence is within Leduc County.

False alarm means a response that was triggered by smoke or fire detection device and the monitoring company that auto dispatches the fire department, and the result of the detector activation was not due to a confirmed fire requiring the fire department response.

Mutual aid means two municipalities that have an agreement with each other to support emergency response operations within each other's jurisdictions, upon request.

Policy authority

Legislative implications:

- Alberta Transportation Policy TCE-DC-501

Bylaw implications:

- Fees and Charges Bylaw
- Fire Services Bylaw Section 7

Policy standards

1. Leduc County, using the rates set out in the Fees and Charges Bylaw, will invoice for cost recovery where there is a fire services response.
2. Leduc County will not bill county residents for any fire service response that occur on county or private roads.
3. Cost recovery for motor vehicle collisions:
 - Alberta Transportation shall be invoiced for *any* emergency responses involving motor vehicle collisions on any provincial highway in accordance with Alberta Transportation guidelines.

- The individual, who is not a county resident and is at fault for the accident, will be invoiced directly for a cost recovery fee for any fire services emergency response on County roadways or private property.
 - If the individual has provided their insurance information, the insurance company will receive the invoice.
 - If the individual does not have insurance or prefers not to use insurance, the invoice will be sent to the owner of the vehicle.
 - If a fatality is to occur as a result of a collision on a county road, a cost recovery will not be applied if the at fault party is also the deceased, otherwise the at fault party will still be responsible for cost recovery.
4. Cost recovery for a false alarm response:
 - For a first-time false alarm response within the calendar year, no emergency response costs will be charged.
 - If a false alarm occurs within 365-days of a previously recorded false alarm, the cost of the response may be recovered through invoicing in accordance with the fees and charges bylaw or at the discretion of the Fire Chief.
 5. Cost recovery for mutual aid responses to another municipality is determined by signed mutual aid agreements outside this policy.
 6. Cost recovery for hazardous material cleanup:
 - Leduc County may charge cost recovery for responses involving hazardous material. This would cover the cost of the equipment needed to properly mitigate the hazard.

Policy responsibilities

Council responsibilities:

- Council will,
- Review and approve this policy.

Administration responsibilities:

- Administration will,
- Send invoices to the appropriate individuals or parties involved.

Fire Services responsibilities:

- Fire services will,
- Perform firefighting duties.
 - Notify individuals of the County's policy when applicable.

Monitoring and updating

- This policy will be posted on Leduc County's website.
- This policy will be reviewed at least once every four years.

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