

# **FIRE DISTRICT FALSE ALARM OPERATING COSTS**

## **Emergency Apparatus Response**

### **Attachment 4**

Current Fire District policy is to respond one emergency apparatus to every reported alarm sounding. This change in policy from requiring two apparatus to respond on all initial fire alarms was a result of the extremely high percentage of nuisance and false fire alarm calls coupled with limited emergency resources available within the Fire District.

The average single apparatus response time from report of alarm to clearing the incident is approximately 20 minutes per response.

Fire Apparatus Equipment (1500 GPM – Type I Engine) hourly rate	\$ 106.00
Engine/Truck Company Personnel Costs (3 person crew Firefighter/Engineer/Captain)	
Hourly rate per crew (salary/benefits/personnel costs)	\$ 277.80
Hourly rate for 1 Engine/Truck company including personnel	<b><u>\$ 383.80</u></b>
Fractional cost based on 20-minute commitment: \$383.80 per hour x .33	\$ 126.65
Cost of one (1) apparatus per response (20 minutes)	\$ 126.65
Cost follow-up Fire Prevention personnel (one hour)	<u>\$ 279.00</u>
Total cost per false alarm response	\$ 405.65
(\$406.00)	

The California Fire Code, as locally amended by the current Fire District Ordinance No. 2016-23, authorizes the Fire District to charge a fee for false and/or nuisance fire alarms, as follows:

**401.5.1 Nuisance Fire Alarm Fee.** A fee may be charged for false and/or nuisance fire alarms in accordance with a fee schedule adopted by the Board of Directors.