

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-08**  
(Uncodified)

(Cost Recovery for Emergency Medical First-Responder Services)

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, as and constituting the Board of Directors of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1. Authority.** This ordinance is enacted pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 13910 through 13919.

**SECTION 2. Purpose and Recitals.**

- (a) The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (“District”) provides timely and efficient emergency, rescue, fire protection, and other services to residents and businesses located in the District, and to persons who visit, do business in, or travel through the District.
- (b) The District responds to a high volume of calls for emergency medical services, by deploying District personnel to incidents and providing first-responder emergency medical assessment and treatment to persons at those incidents.
- (c) On December 9, 2014, the District’s Board of Directors adopted Ordinance No. 2014-19 to establish a fee for providing emergency medical first-responder services. Since the ordinance was adopted, the District’s costs to provide emergency medical first-responder services have increased. The purpose of this ordinance is to increase the District’s fee for emergency medical first-responder services to ensure the District is recovering its costs to provide those services.
- (d) The District has reasonably calculated its costs of providing emergency medical first-responder services to a person at an incident. These costs include the District’s actual personnel and apparatus costs, the cost of supplies, and the cost of equipment to provide emergency medical first-responder services to each person. The emergency medical first-responder fee established by this ordinance is calculated based on the District’s actual costs of providing emergency medical first-responder services to each person at an incident.

**SECTION 3. Definitions.** For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) “Advanced life support emergency medical services” means advanced life-saving procedures that include, but are not limited to, intravenous fluid therapy, intubation, administration of drugs, and electro-cardio conversion.

- (b) “Basic life support emergency medical services” means basic-level care that includes, but is not limited to, oxygen therapy, injury and wound management, patient packaging, and operation of an automated external defibrillator.
- (c) “Emergency medical first-responder services” means advanced life support emergency medical services and basic life support emergency medical services provided by District personnel who are licensed healthcare practitioners, other than ambulance-based personnel, to a person at an incident. Emergency medical first-responder services do not include any of the following: services provided by ambulance-based personnel of the District or any other entity; medical transportation services provided by the District or any other entity; or emergency medical first-responder services provided by any person or entity other than the District.

#### **SECTION 4. Emergency Medical First-Responder Fee.**

- (a) An emergency medical first-responder fee to recover the District’s actual costs of providing emergency medical first-responder services to each person is established in the amount specified in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein.
- (b) The emergency medical first-responder fee shall be charged to each person who receives District emergency medical first-responder services during a single incident.
- (c) The District Board of Directors (“Board”), may adjust the amount of the emergency medical first-responder fee established by this ordinance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 13916.

#### **SECTION 5. Fee Collection.**

- (a) If the District provides emergency medical first-responder services to a person, the Fire Chief, or designee, will send an invoice seeking payment of the emergency medical first-responder fee to the person and to the insurance company that provides medical insurance coverage for the person (the “insurer”), if the person or his or her representative has identified to the District the insurer to which the invoice should be sent.
- (b) The Fire Chief, or designee, shall invoice, bill, receive payments, and discharge from accountability uncollectable emergency medical first-responder fees charged under this Ordinance, all in accordance with applicable District policies and procedures, as may be updated from time to time. Any future updates to those District policies and procedures will include a process to discharge from accountability accounts that are not collectible.

**SECTION 6. No Effect on Emergency Medical First-Responder Services.** This ordinance neither expands nor limits emergency medical first-responder services. Nothing in this ordinance relieves the District from providing emergency medical first-responder services. Emergency medical first-responder services will continue to be provided without regard to whether a person is insured by an insurer, and without regard to whether a person has the ability to pay the emergency medical first-responder fee.

**SECTION 7. No Waiver of Other Means of Cost Recovery.** This ordinance does not preclude the District from recovering its emergency response costs in any other manner authorized by law, including, but not limited to, Government Code sections 53150 through 53158 and Health and Safety Code sections 13009, 13009.1, and 13009.6.

**SECTION 8. Repeal of Ordinance 2014-19.** Except as specified in Section 9 of this Ordinance, Ordinance No. 2014-19 is hereby repealed and superseded by this Ordinance, as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 9. Severability.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance to the contrary, if a court of competent jurisdiction determines any fee set forth in this Ordinance is invalid or unenforceable, the fee adopted by Ordinance No. 2014-19 shall be deemed not to have been repealed and shall remain in effect and subject to the remaining provisions of this ordinance. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance to the contrary, if a court of competent jurisdiction determines this Ordinance is invalid or unenforceable, Ordinance No. 2014-19 shall be deemed not to have been repealed and shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 10. Effective Date.** This ordinance becomes effective 30 days after its passage. Within 15 days after its passage, this ordinance shall be published once with the names of the directors voting for and against it in the East Bay Times, a newspaper published in this County.

PASSED ON March 12, 2019 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST: DAVID J. TWA,  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
and County Administrator

  
Board Chair

By: Stephanie Mello  
Deputy



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**Exhibit A**  
**First-Responder Fee Calculation**  
**(Cost Per Incident)**

Apparatus Costs

Type I Engine, Quint, or Squad	\$125.00
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Personnel Costs

Firefighter/Paramedic	\$79.94
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Engineer	\$86.81
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Fire Captain	\$96.82
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Administrative Costs

Emergency Medical Dispatch	\$72.00
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Administrative Rate	10%*
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<b>Fire Emergency Medical First-Responder Fee</b>	<b>\$506.63</b>
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\*Administrative rate based on State of California Office of Emergency Services approved administrative rate for local government reimbursement for emergency incident response.