



## SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

**Wednesday March 29, 2023, 6:00pm**

Please note that this meeting will be held at Station 810, 33900 West Street, Albion, CA. and via videoconference on the Zoom platform. Information on attending this meeting can be found on our website <http://www.alrfpd.com> under the Notices tab. This meeting is called as a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Albion Little River Fire Protection District for reviewing the cost recovery policy for the District.

- 1. Call to order and determination of a quorum:**
- 2. Public communication to the board:** Members of the public may address the board on any matter within the jurisdiction of the board; however, no action will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals wishing to address the board may do so when public comment is solicited.
- 3. Items for discussion and possible action:**
  - a. Cost Recovery Policy (see packet)
- 4. Adjournment:**

**Any individual who requires disability related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the board meeting should contact the board at 707-937-4022, email: [board@albionfire.com](mailto:board@albionfire.com), or write to the board at PO Box 634, Albion, CA 95410-0634 as soon as possible before the meeting date.**

# 002

Albion-Little River Fire Protection District is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ALRFPD Board of Directors Special Meeting

Time: Mar 29, 2023 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82003701920>

Meeting ID: 820 0370 1920

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,82003701920# US

+16699006833,,82003701920# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

Meeting ID: 820 0370 1920

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82003701920>

## Fire Recovery USA provides funds to fire departments through Cost Recovery.

### We Offer Seven Main Cost Recovery Programs:

**iPad Inspection / Automated billing** - By combining technology with automation we can greatly enhance your inspection and permitting program. You inspect, we do the rest, efficiently and quickly with full transparency. We follow up on payments, have 24/7 live data reporting and the highest recovery rate in the industry.

**Self Inspection Program** - This revolutionary program provides the ability to have base level inspections for ALL businesses. It satisfies your responsibility to assure your businesses are safe. In a rotation with the full inspection above it provides the maximum ability to assure business compliance while supporting the costs of your inspection program. All with a flexible audit capability.

**Emergency Response Cost Recovery Program** - You incur significant costs responding to incidents. Appropriately recovering the costs of high impact events is becoming the new standard. Let us provide you with an estimate of your potential recovery.

**EMS Billing Program** - With nearly 20 years experience and advanced technology, let Fire Recovery EMS perform for you. Our track record is impeccable, or recovery rates among the highest, and our reporting is real time. Plus, we handle all the headache of collecting.

**First Responder Support Program** - There are real costs to responding to medical incidents. Medical insurance typically covers the cost of the EMS service while most first responders have had to absorb these enormous costs. Our First Responder Support Program allows you to track and bill to recover these costs. We bill, collect, and pass the revenue back to our departments monthly.

**Paramedic Subscription Program** - Our Paramedic Subscription Program is an "insurance policy" to help cover first responder fees for resident in your region. Combined with our First Responder Support Program, the Paramedic Subscription Program allows for affordable fees to cover a possible first responder event. For a small annual fee, a resident or business can pre-pay for any incident for their family or employees.

## Emergency Response Cost Recovery Program

Although billing for Fire Services sounds simple, how we generate our high recovery rate is very sophisticated. Some fire departments do perform in-house billing; unfortunately, they typically see a low recovery rate (between 10-15 percent). This low rate can be attributed to the fact that the typical fire department or city is not equipped in the field of fire service billing.

**Fire Recovery USA uses advanced methods resulting in a proven higher recovery percentage - over 90% of “fluid-based” MVA runs with hazardous materials spills and over 70% of all billable events.** This is the highest recovery rate in our industry for all types of runs. So what makes us different?

We have several interesting techniques in our system including methods that we've developed during our years of billing experience that informs the responsible parties of their fiscal responsibilities. While this alone would guarantee us to equal or exceed our competitors; the real basis for our high recovery percentage is our ability to gather the necessary information to recover funds for a call that would otherwise be written off as unrecoverable by others.

What our clients really appreciate is our ability to track down the necessary information of those persons involved in the incidents. We require the least amount of information from the fire departments to create a bill (name of individual, car license number, and the name of the insurance carrier) - that's it! We have investigative techniques (both live and software-based) that allow us to find most of the necessary facts. We believe that this is our responsibility and not the fire departments'.

**Bottom line: if you employ our billing service, you will enjoy, not only our excellent customer service and training, but also be confident you have the highest recovery percentages possible.**

**There is no up-front cost to you as we only take a portion of the money we recover for you as our fee – there are no other costs to you whatsoever.**

***Fire Recovery USA offers fund recovery to local fire departments for:***

- ***Motor Vehicle Incidents***
- ***Hazmat Clean-up***
- ***Vehicle Fires***
- ***Structure Fires***
- ***Special Rescues***
- ***Water Incidents***
- ***Fire Inspections***
- ***And More ...***

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE RECOVERY

### How our system works.

#### Prior to Billing

You pass ordinance that allows you to bill for various services you provide during an emergency incident. These can be all or some of the following: Motor Vehicle Incidents, which includes Accidents and Fires, Structure Fires, Marine and Water Incidents, Hazmat calls, False Alarms, Fire Investigations, and Special Rescue services.

#### Billing Begins

**At The Scene of the Incident:** Your personnel will either log the data from the incident using your existing system protocol, or via our paper-based "Incident Reports".

**Upon Return to the Station:** We have the ability to harvest the billing data from many of today's most popular RMS Systems including, Firehouse, Zoll, Fire Programs, Emergency Reporting, ImageTrend, FDM, etc. If available for your RMS, our link will harvest the data information directly into our RecoveryHub site. If not, your designated personnel will submit the run using our secure RecoveryHub on-line system. When they log-on, RecoveryHub will recognize them and bring them right to your run submission page.

**After Submitting the Run:** We go to work in claim recovery. By utilizing the advanced technology in RecoveryHub, we should be able to harvest the necessary billing data for most incidents without further contact with the client, depending on the quality of the information provided by your staff.

Virtually all of our interaction is with the at-fault individual and their insurance company. We will determine the existing claim number (or create a new claim with the insurance carrier), bill the individual and submit the claim to the insurance company, provide follow-up proof of laws, legal documents, and other information, and finally, recover the funds.

**Our Processing Center:** After receiving the run, we assign it to a claim representative. Their job is to track down the individual and existing claim or create a claim with the appropriate insurance carriers and/or responsible parties. We work with the insurance companies involved and/or the police to determine who is responsible if necessary for payment.

Our Processing Center sends the initial claim to the responsible party and their insurance tracks the response(s) and begins to plan for approval of the claim. If initially denied, the claim then moves to our escalation team who responds to the reasons for the denial, provides the responsible party(s) of laws pertaining to the claim, and strategizes the most effective way to counter further denials of this claim. **Fire Recovery USA uses advanced methods resulting in a proven higher recovery percentage - over 90% of "fluid-based" MVA runs with hazardous materials spills and over 70% of all billable events.**

***Viewing or Printing Reports is Available 24/7:*** The main benefit of this program is our exclusive 24/7 "Real-Time" information and status access through our RecoveryHub website. You'll never again have to wait for your data or reports. You can access from virtually any computer, anywhere in the world.

The status of each run (Current or Archived) is available 24/7, online, on RecoveryHub. This will both provide immediate account information, but also allow you to forecast incoming funds and plan for their use.

## **Payment of Runs**

On or before the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month, we issue a check for all payments received prior to the previous month's cut-off date (typically the 24<sup>th</sup>), minus our collection fee. This payment will also include an itemized breakdown of what runs the check is paid against.

**RESOLUTION NO: 20220815**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAM TO CHARGE MITIGATION RATES FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES BY THE FIRE DISTRICT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED/RENDERED BY/FOR THE ALBION-LITTLE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the emergency services response activity to incidents continues to increase each year; Environmental Protection requirements involving equipment and training, and Homeland Security regulations involving equipment and training, creating additional demands on all operational aspects of the fire district services; and

WHEREAS, the fire district 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 district 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, raising real property tax to meet the increase in service demands would not be fair when the responsible party(s) should be held accountable for their actions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District desires 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 ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALBION-LITTLE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:**

SECTION 1: The Albion-Little River Fire Protection District 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 2: 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.

SECTION 3: The fire district's Board 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 4: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in open meetings of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in accordance with all legal requirements, and the Codified Resolutions of the Board.

SECTION 5: This resolution shall take effect at the date of adoption.

SECTION 6: The Mitigation Rates lists in Exhibit A will increase by 2.6<sup>9%</sup> 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 district's cost recovery program in conformity with increasing operating expenses.

APPROVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALBION LITTLE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT THIS 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

VACANT: 0

Chuck Greenberg Chuck Greenberg  
President, Board of Directors of the Albion Little River Fire  
Protection District

Attest:

Pam Linstead Pam Linstead  
Vice President, Board of Directors of the Albion Little River Fire  
Protection District



## **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

# 011

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

**OPTIONAL: A fire district 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 district 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 district response at a cost not to exceed the actual expenses incurred by the fire district 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.