

2.42.190 – Collection of fees for special services at fires, rescues and hazardous material responses.

- A. **Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to authorize the Bridgeport Fire Department to bill and collect from the insurance companies of the responsible party or parties additional fees for special services (e.g., fires, rescues and hazardous material response) in order to recoup some of the additional costs of providing such special services. The Bridgeport Fire Chief is authorized to take the following actions and do the following things in furtherance of the authority granted hereby:
1. Identify those fire department responses where personnel and equipment are needed to render special services (defined below) where the fire department uses more resources and incurs greater costs than routine responses in order to better protect public health, safety and welfare;
 2. Establish a fee schedule for special services;
 3. Establish billing and collection policies and procedures in conjunction with the finance department and the city attorney; and
 4. Publish a fee schedule for special services and post the same either by January 1 of each year or at least (30) days prior to the effective date of such fee schedule at:
 - a. Fire Department Headquarters;
 - b. The Office of the City Clerk; and
 - c. On the City of Bridgeport internet website
- B. **Definitions:** For purposes of this section, the following apply:
- “Collection action”* means the City’s demand upon the insurance company or insurance companies of the responsible party or parties involved in or for whose benefit special services are rendered for the payment of fees for all or a portion of such special services rendered and, upon any denial or refusal to pay, the City’s joinder of an insured party and its insurance company in a collection action as a means of seeking and obtaining payment of such fees from such insurance company.
- “Long duration”* means an event at which the Fire Department’s response to a fire, rescue or hazardous materials incident that lasts longer than one hour measured from the time the Fire Department to the scene of the incident.
- “Special equipment”* means hand tools, power tools such as Jaws-of-Life, hydraulic spreaders and rams, and containment equipment such as pumps, booms and the like, including costs of delivery, installation or placement where required.
- “Special materials”* means the use of materials, chemicals, containment supplies, materials for damming, cribbing and shoring and other special materials particular to the fire, rescue or hazardous material response, including the cost of installation, erection or placement where required.
- “Special services”* means those services rendered for the benefit of an insured party involved in or for whose benefit such services are rendered at fires, rescues or hazardous material responses that require the Fire Department’s use of special equipment or special materials, require Fire Department attendance and performance of services at events of long duration, or require Fire Department services at events regulated by or subject to Federal Emergency Agency regulations then in effect.
- C. **Fees Established for Special Services.** The Fire Chief will determine the fee schedule for special services for the following categories of response:

1. **Fire response.** Fire response with property loss to a building or vehicle of any type, including:
 - a. Fire Suppression Rate 1. This rate applies to small fires that are extinguished relatively easily without the use of special equipment or special materials.
 - b. Fire Suppression Rate 2. This rate applies to fires where there is a major property loss.
 - c. Fire Suppression Rate 3. This rate applies to events of long duration.
 2. **Rescue response.** Rescue response involving the use of the special equipment, including:
 - a. Rescue Rate 1. This rate applies to accident requiring the use of special equipment limited to hand tools.
 - b. Rescue Rate 2. This rate applies to accidents requiring the use of special equipment other than hand tools.
 - c. Rescue Rate 3. This rate applies to rescues of long duration.
 3. **Hazardous materials response.** Hazardous materials response involving the use of special equipment and special materials, including:
 - a. Hazmat Rate 1. This rate applies to small spills, releases or responses requiring the use of special equipment or special materials limited to hazmat sand.
 - b. Hazmat 2. This rate applies to large spills, releases or responses requiring the use of special equipment and special materials other than hazmat sand and involving other agencies such as the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the City Department of Public Facilities, the City Department of Health, or other public agencies having jurisdiction.
 - c. Hazmat Rate 3. This rate applies to hazardous materials responses of long duration,
- D. **Collection from Insurance Carriers at No Cost; Joinder of responsible parties in collection actions.** In the event that a claim or demand for payment of special services is denied by an insurance company, the Fire Department, with the advice of the City Attorney, may authorize the commencement of a collection action against the insurance company for the payment of fees or special services. Such lawsuit may also join the insured party as a defendant in order to obtain payment from the insured party's insurance company.
- E. **Publication.** The fee schedule shall be published by posting with the Office of the City Clerk, Bridgeport Fire Department Headquarters, and on the City of Bridgeport internet website and shall become effective on the effective date described herein.
- F. **Effective Date.** This section shall become effective on January 1 if published at least thirty (30) days prior to January 1, or, if published after January 1, shall become effective thirty (30) days after such publication.

(Ord. dated 4/6/09)

Bridgeport Fire Department
Fees for Special Services at Fires, Rescues and Hazardous Material Responses

Category	Description	Rate
Fire Suppression Rate 1	To be used for car fires and small fires requiring smoke ejection	\$500.00
Fire Suppression Rate 2	To be used for structure fires and fires with extended on-scene time	\$1,000.00
Rescue Rate 1	To be used at MVA's where the vehicle needed to be stabilized, hand tools used for extrication, and stand by awaiting the wrecker	\$350.00
Rescue Rate 2	To be used at MVA's requiring hydraulic extrication, high angle rescues, water/ice rescues and special rescues with extended on-scene time	\$750.00
Hazmat Rate 1	To be used at MVA's or spills where speedi-dry, absorbent pads, or booms are used	\$350.00
Hazmat Rate 2	To be used for prolonged HM incidents to mitigate/control the scene and for disposable supplies not restocked by the contractor or DEP	\$750.00
Service Call	To be used for burst pipes, water conditions, or securing electrical hazards, etc.	\$500.00