

## **CITY OF SALINAS FIRST RESPONDER COST RECOVERY FEE PROGRAM**

### **I. Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a fee for the recovery of costs for providing medical emergency and traffic collision first responder services.

### **II. Establishment of Fee.**

For each emergency incident, the city may charge a First Responder Fee to each person to whom the city provides medical emergency first responder services and/or traffic collision first responder services. The City Council shall establish the amount of the First Responder Fee by resolution.

### **III. Definitions**

- (a) 'First Responder Fee' means the fee established pursuant to this Article I.A of Chapter 13 of the Salinas Municipal Code and charged to each person to whom the city provides medical emergency first responder services and/or traffic collision first responder services to recover the costs for providing such services.
- (b) 'Fire Chief' means Chief of the City of Salinas Fire Department or his or her designee.
- (c) 'Insurer' means the Recipient's medical and/or automobile insurance provider.
- (d) 'Recipient' means the person to whom the city provides medical emergency first responder services and/or traffic collision response services. The driver of an automobile or other vehicle shall be considered the 'Recipient' for the purposes of this definition.
- (e) 'Services' means medical emergency first responder services and/or traffic collision response services provided by the city.

### **IV. Fee Collection and Administration.**

- (a) The Fire Chief shall establish policies and procedures for the collection and administration of the First Responder Fee.
- (b) The policies and procedures shall require the City to bill the Recipient and the Insurer, if any.
- (c) Emergency Medical Service Responses

- (1) The city shall accept the payment, if any, from the Insurer as the full payment for the Recipient's fee obligation and the city shall not require the Recipient to pay for any portion of the First Responder Fee not paid by the Insurer.

(d) Traffic Collision Responses

- (1) The city shall accept the payment, if any, from the Insurer as the full payment for the Recipient's fee obligation and the city shall not require the Recipient to pay for any portion of the First Responder Fee not paid by the Insurer for traffic collision incidents requiring only one (1) fire department resource being committed for less than one hour (60 minutes).
- (2) The following circumstances shall require additional fees as approved in the current City of Salinas Schedule of Fees and Charges for City Services and may require the Recipient to pay for said additional fees.
  - (i) Traffic collision incidents requiring multiple fire department resources or fire department resources to be committed for greater than one hour (60 minutes).
  - (ii) Incidents involving hazardous materials spills or releases (as defined by California Vehicle Code Section 353).
  - (iii) Incidents involving commercial vehicles (as defined by California Vehicle Code Section 260).
  - (iv) Incidents involving parties who are suspected of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol (as defined by California Vehicle Code Section 23152 a through g).
- (3) In all circumstances, the fire department incident commander shall determine the appropriate number of resources and amount of time necessary to safely and efficiently resolve the incident.

**V. No Effect on Medical Emergency First Responder Services.**

This chapter neither expands nor limits the city's provision of medical emergency first responder services. Nothing in this chapter relieves the city from providing medical emergency first responder services and/or traffic collision response services. The City will continue to provide medical emergency first responder services and traffic collision response services without regard to whether or not: (1) a person has medical

or automobile insurance, or (2) a person has the ability to pay the fee, or (3) a person has or has not paid the fee in the past.