

CHAPTER 23.55 FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE OUTSIDE SERVICE AREAS

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23.55.100 Definitions

Whenever the term "municipally financed fire protection" is used, it shall include services received from the Municipality of Anchorage Fire Department, and other service areas offering tax-supported fire-protection services.

- A. *Accidental alarm* means an alarm set off and transmitted through accidental operation of an automatic or manual fire alarm device, frequently caused by low air pressure on an automatic fire-extinguishing system, dry valves, excessive heat due to industrial processes or cold weather.
- B. *Call out* means the initial response of a fire department to a report of a fire.
- C. *Needless alarm* means an alarm of fire apparently given in good faith which proves to be needless because fire department assistance was not required.

23.55.200 Policy

The policy of the municipality is to provide fire protection within service areas to the maximum extent possible within the budgets approved by the Assembly and supported by taxes raised within the service areas. Further, the municipality recognizes a supplementary obligation to protect lives and property from destruction by fire in areas of the municipality which do not support fire protection services by taxes or voluntary contributions sufficient to maintain a volunteer fire department capable of responding adequately to all calls twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week throughout the year.

23.55.300 Implementation

The mayor is authorized to permit the use of municipally financed fire protection services outside of the areas providing tax or other adequate support for the services on the following conditions:

- A. The first obligation is to areas furnishing tax support, and the service to the outside areas shall not jeopardize the service to the areas furnishing tax support,
- B. The second obligation is to areas which voluntarily contribute to the maintenance of a 24-hour-per-day, seven-day-per-week fire department.
- C. The third obligation is to other areas.

23.55.400 Cost of services

- A. In areas outside of fire service areas, \$500.00 shall be charged for call out of the Fire Department. After the first hour, hourly rates for each piece of fire apparatus used in suppressing the fire shall be charged in accordance with the following:
1. Pumper: \$75.00 per hour;
 2. Tanker: \$75.00 per hour;
 3. Brush tank: \$75.00 per hour;
 4. Bulldozer: \$75.00 per hour.

23.55.500 Responsibility for payment

- A. The responsibility for payment of the charges in section 23.55.040 shall rest jointly and severally upon the following:
1. Owners of the property upon which the fire originated;
 2. Tenants of the property upon which the fire originated;
 3. Persons residing on the property upon which the fire originated; and
 4. Any person legally responsible for the fire by reason of negligence or otherwise.
- B. For the purpose of this section only, the term "fire" is meant to include not only fires but any action or omission to act which results in a needless or accidental alarm.

23.55.600 Enforcement

The municipality shall have the right to bring suit for the collection of these charges, plus costs and attorneys' fees, against any or all of the parties responsible for payment.