

# How does Fire Services billing work in Lethbridge County?

## IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE:



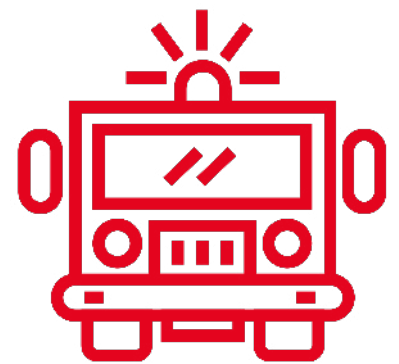
9-1-1 is called for a fire and the dispatcher sends an alert to the appropriate fire department in Lethbridge County to attend your location.

The County has fire service agreements with the Towns of Coaldale, Coalhurst, Picture Butte, and Nobleford.

The fire department(s) responds. Fire department responses are billed on a per emergency vehicle, per hour basis, based on Alberta Transportation rates (see table below).

Billing time begins:

- once the first unit arrives on scene at a **residential property or farmland**
- once the call is dispatched to the fire department for a **commercial/ industrial property or if the incident is on a highway**



The fire department arrives on scene. Emergency vehicles may be sent back to station or additional ones may be called, depending on the severity of the emergency.

Billing time for each emergency vehicle ends when it returns to service.

Following the emergency, the fire department(s) calculates the costs of the response based on the number of emergency vehicles on scene and number of hours each was deployed. An invoice for these costs is sent to the County. The County then sends an invoice to the party responsible for igniting the fire for the same amount. The fire department is in turn paid by the County.

This is a cost recovery system, meaning the County does not profit from emergency responses.



## Rates for Fire Department Units:

- Ladder & pumper trucks, water trucks - \$630/hr
- Light & medium rescue vehicles - \$650/hr
- Command vehicles - \$190/hr

## Example of the cost of a fire department response for a structure fire\*

3 pumper trucks (each @ \$630/hr)  
+ 2 water trucks (each @ \$630/hr)  
+ 2 command vehicles (each at \$190/hr)  
**= \$3,530 per hour**

*\*Every situation is different, therefore number of apparatus needed, hours on scene, and costs will vary. This is an example only.*

## Does Your Insurance Policy Cover Fire Department Response Costs?

Your insurance policy likely covers insurance on repairing or replacing your home in the event of a fire, as well as the contents of your home. **But, does your home insurance cover fire department charges and firefighting expenses?**



**It's important to reach out to your insurance company to determine what type of coverage you have in the event of a fire, and to ensure that fire department charges are covered by your policy so that you aren't left with an out-of-pocket bill for response costs.**