

Fire Prevention Services & Fees

The Fire Department, in conjunction with the Development Services Department, has recently completed a comprehensive review of the Town's adopted fee schedule for Fire Prevention Services. Fire Prevention Services include plan reviews (e.g. fire alarms, fire sprinklers, equipment installation with health hazards, etc.) and permits with subsequent inspections for new, existing and temporary structures/operations per the Town's Fire Code. The comprehensive fee review included a full costing of providing Fire Prevention Services, reviewing the Town's Fire Code, as well as a market analysis of the fees charged by other Fire Departments.

As a result of this review, it was determined that the Town's adopted fee schedule for Fire Prevention services was very limited and did not capture the full range of services available to customers. Nor did the adopted fee schedule capture the full scope of the Operational Permits and certain inspections required by the Town's Fire Code. Most importantly, the current fee schedule does not appropriately recover the cost of providing Fire Prevention service.

Staff is proposing the adoption a new Fire Prevention fee schedule. Some of the major changes include the following:

Operational Permits and Occupancy Inspections

Operational permits and occupancy inspections are designed to allow for fire prevention inspections by the Fire Marshal, or designee, for activities/operations that present fire and/or safety hazards to the citizens of Queen Creek and the community. Operational permit and occupancy inspection fees enable the Town to recover the costs of the required inspections. The current fee schedule captures only a small number of the operation and occupancy types covered by the Town's Fire Code. As a consequence, the Town is unable to fully recover the costs of all required inspections. The proposed fee schedule would more appropriately align with the Fire Code and includes future operational and occupancy types.

Each business in the Town is required by the Town's Fire Code to be inspected pursuant to the authority of the Fire Marshal to determine compliance. The Fire Prevention Bureau proposes the use of three categories for inspection frequency and assignment of Town businesses to a category per the Fire Code. Designation in the Low Risk category shall result in a fire prevention inspection and permit fee for the business once every three years. Designation in the Medium Risk category shall result in a fire prevention inspection and permit fee for the business once every two years. Designation in the High Risk category shall result in a fire prevention inspection and permit fee for the business each year.

Emergency Medical Equipment and Standby Personnel

Emergency Medical Equipment and Standby Personnel fees are proposed to help recover the cost of having firefighters and paramedics on standby at a large event in case of an emergency. These events would include events such as concerts, carnivals, large outdoor assembly events and trade shows. Currently the Town has no way to recover the cost of these operations. These fees will also be used when there is an out of Town response of any Town of Queen Creek equipment or manpower that we are able to recover the cost.