

MT. AETNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUBSCRIPTION AND BILLING

Overview

The business of operating a fire department – even a volunteer department like Mt. Aetna – is an expensive undertaking. The services provided by our dedicated volunteers help keep personnel and other operating expenses to a bare minimum. Unfortunately, equipment, apparatus, supplies, training and facility maintenance cost more each year, and our funding resources have not kept pace. Therefore, the Mt. Aetna Volunteer Fire Department has started billing for service.

You can avoid billing!

In exchange for donating a minimum annual subscription fee, residents, businesses, and organizations in our district are exempt from direct billing for our services. Non-subscribers will be billed for services, with charges determined according to a rate grid established for the various services the fire department provides. This is similar to the billing practices employed by several other fire departments and all of the ambulance companies in Washington County.

The subscription plan

Our subscription plan offers a great way to support the efforts of your community volunteer fire department AND save money when you need our services. Here's how it works. Once a year we mail a request for donations to every address in our district. If you make the minimum requested donation (see subscription rates below), we will not bill you for fire/rescue services provided by Mt. Aetna VFD for one year from the receipt of your donation. It's that simple. Note: Walk-in subscription donations are also accepted!

Mt. Aetna VFD Annual Subscription Rates

Residential	Minimum \$35 annual donation for up to 3000 square ft. residence Minimum \$50 annual donation for over 3000 square ft. residence
Commercial	Minimum \$100 annual donation
Non-Profit, School, Church	Minimum \$50 annual donation

An important note!! Call 9-1-1 in an emergency. The Mt. Aetna Volunteer Fire Department will respond to ALL calls for service regardless of your status as a subscriber. Our job is to handle emergency situations and worry about any service fees later. Never hesitate to call for help – we will always respond. Our emergency workers will never know if you are a subscriber or not. That information is kept in our administrative office and is handled separately – well after the incident.

Current billing rates (as of May 1, 2010)

Non-subscribers are subject to the following charges for fire-rescue service. All charges are 'per incident.'

Type	Rate	Description
Fire Suppression Rate 1	\$250	Vehicle fires; small fires requiring smoke ejection; outdoor fires; any other fire requiring up to 30 minutes on-scene time
Fire Suppression Rate 2	\$500	Structure fires; other fires requiring extended on-scene time (Over 30 minutes, up to 2 hrs)
Rescue Rate 1	\$200	Motor vehicle collisions where vehicle is stabilized, hazards removed or secured, hand tools used for extrication, and/or standby awaiting wrecker
Rescue Rate 2	\$400	Motor vehicle collisions requiring use of hydraulic extrication tools, high angle rescue, water/ice rescue, and/or special rescues with extended on-scene time (up to 2 hrs)
Hazmat Rate 1	\$200	Motor vehicle collisions or spills requiring use of absorbents (less than 10 gallons), pads, booms or other materials
Hazmat Rate 2	\$400	Hazardous materials calls of prolonged length (up to 2 hrs) and/or requiring use of absorbents (over 10 gallons) or other supplies not restocked by contractor or government agency
Service Call 1	\$50	Burst pipes, water conditions, securing electrical hazards, etc. (30 min. or less)
Service Call 2	\$100	Burst pipes, water conditions, securing electrical hazards, etc. (30 min. to 2 hrs)
Automatic Alarm 1	\$35	Fire units cancelled by dispatcher prior to arrival on scene (Note: this bill may be waived for a first-time accidental or malfunctioning alarm)
Automatic Alarm 2	\$75	Fire units arrive and investigate (up to 2 hrs) (Note: this bill may be waived for a first-time accidental or malfunctioning alarm)
Hourly Rate for Major Incidents or Stand-by	Engine \$75/hour Tanker \$75/hour Brush unit \$50/hr Utility/car \$35/hr	Hourly rate added to any incident requiring on-scene time over 2 hrs; or straight hourly rate for stand-by or other miscellaneous use of units
Rental of equipment	\$15 per hour minimum	Small pumps, etc. Higher charges may apply, depending on the equipment rented.