

Vernon Fire District



PO Box 400, Vernon, AZ 85940
Office (928) 537-4895 Fax (928) 537-7543
Admin@vfdmail.org

Contract Service Program

Where most fire departments are municipal or city fire departments and receive their operating income from sales tax or through their city budget, fire districts are established as a special district with funding received through property taxes. These taxes are collected from the properties within the fire district taxing district boundaries.

Historically, the public expectation of fire departments and/or districts is that they respond to all emergencies without regard for boundaries or borders. This is true today more than ever, as people from large metropolitan areas continue to move to the area. The Vernon Fire District (VFD) has always responded to help its neighbors outside of the district. At first there were very few calls outside the district but in our service area, however, these calls have grown to be almost a third of the district's call volume. This obviously presents a funding issue for VFD.

To further complicate the matter, VFD over the last seven years has seen a 43% reduction in funding due to the drop in property value within the taxing district. This fact coupled with the large increase in out of district calls has made it necessary for VFD to recover costs for services provided outside of the taxing district. Otherwise, discontinuation of out of district services would be necessary.

The VFD is offering a contract service program (subscription) for all properties in the area around the district but not located in the tax boundaries. The contract service program is billed annually in June, and the conditions are as follows:

1. Subscribers to the contract service program will receive all services provided to VFD residents.
2. All fees for contract services will be calculated at the current VFD mil rate established for the contract year with a minimum fee for contract services of \$100.00.
3. Persons owning multiple parcels will pay on the total limited property value times our mil rate for all parcel(s). Or a minimum of \$100.00
4. All participants must sign a contract service agreement.
5. If the covered property is sold there is no refund for the unused portion.
6. Payment plans are available.
7. Any property that is not covered by the contract service program that is outside the fire district but within the service area will be billed for services that Vernon Fire District provides as per board policy (see following pages).

Please contact the Administration Office with any questions or to receive a subscription quote for your property/properties Monday thru Thursday, 10:00am to 4:00pm at 928-537-4895.

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Explanation of Billing for Services

Vernon Fire District recommends that all out of district homeowners obtain a subscription and keep it active to avoid being charged for our services. Please call for a quote.

A.R.S. §48-814. Provides that all Fire and Emergency Medical calls out of district are calls that the agency providing service can bill for those services. The rates for those services are set forth per A.R.S. §48-805 B 13, and the fee schedule is approved by the VFD Fire Board. See the following page for details.

Invoices will be processed for all services including any or all motor vehicle accidents and all out of district emergency calls **unless the property owner has a current subscription with Vernon Fire District**. Vernon Fire Board has contracted with EF Recovery for billing services for out of district call billing. EF Recovery will invoice non-subscription holding out of district service recipients on behalf of Vernon Fire District. Payments will be made directly to EF Recovery.

In the case of non-recovery of the cost for services, the Vernon Fire Board is prepared to follow all necessary steps of collections up to and including putting a lien on properties.

The following notice has been posted and published to advise potentially affected persons:

Notice - resolutions that are in accordance with Arizona Statues to bill for out of district calls, in accordance with the current subscription policy was approved by the Vernon Fire District in accordance with the approved district calls beginning on July 1, 2017. An updated resolution, 2023-001, was signed on March 28, 2023, to include modification of increased costs, EF Recovery billing, and sending of bad debts into collections.

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Breakdown of Costs per Vernon Fire Incidents

Unit-Personnel-Services Cost Per Hour

Units Cost Per Hour

Engine	\$ 400.00
Water Tender	\$ 300.00
Brush Truck	\$ 250.00
Support Truck	\$ 300.00
Command Vehicle	\$ 150.00

Personnel Cost Per Hour

Command Officer	\$ 400.00
Chief Officer	\$ 150.00
Captain	\$ 100.00
Firefighter Tender	\$ 75.00
Operator	\$ 50.00

Services Cost

Wash Down Preparedness	\$ 200.00
Fire Preparedness	\$ 500.00
EMS or MVA Preparedness	\$ 250.00
Extrication	\$ 500.00
Commercial Carrier Surcharge	\$1000.00
Hazardous Material Surcharge	\$3000.00

Consumables Cost

Absorbent	\$ 125.00 per Event
Foam Concentrate	\$ 100.00 per Gallon
1000 Gallons of Water	\$ 50.00 per 1000 gallons
Extra Supplies/ Equipment	Current market value +25%
Varies per item.	

Board Approved Fees on
3/28/2023

List of VFD services available with a purchased subscription:

To receive the following benefits subscriptions must be paid yearly.

Emergency Services:

- Fire Suppression
- Hazardous Materials Incident Mitigation
- Emergency Medical Services
- Bee Incidents
- Snake Removal
- Home Lock Outs
- Vehicle Lock Outs

Non-Emergency Services:

- Emergency Sheltering
- Lift Assists
- Water Leak Clean Up
- Home Safety Inspections
- Burn Permits
 - On property Burn Safety Assessments
 - On Property VFD Burning Program (Involves additional fees)
- Smoke Alarm Programs
 - Battery Charges for the elderly (Batteries provided by customer)
 - Detectors for the Deaf
- Welfare Checks
- Letter sent to your homeowners insurance stating that you are covered by the Vernon Fire District and what your public classification rating is.

All services provided by VFD personnel are not intended to replace private services or service vendors, VFD will provide services during apparent emergent situations if conditions and time permit. Applicants are encouraged to use private vendors when possible. In either case, VFD will be held harmless for any damage that might occur during emergency operations as outlined in this agreement.