

**ARTICLE II. FIRE DEPARTMENT\***

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**\*Charter references:** Creation of fire department, § 50, chief of the fire department, § 59.

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**Sec. 11-16. Fees for certain permits and services.**

(a) The following fees are hereby established for obtaining certain permits from the fire prevention division of the fire department.

(1) Blaster permit:

- a. Initial . . . \$220.00
- b. Renewal . . . 150.00

(2) Explosive handler's permit, per year . . . 100.00

(3) Quarry blasting permit, per year . . . 500.00

(4) Explosive storage permit, per year . . . 200.00

(5) Duplicate permits . . . 25.00

(6) Burning permits, per seven (7) days . . . 225.00

(7) LPG tanks:

First tank on permit . . . 200.00

Each additional tank . . . 100.00

(8) Aboveground temporary flammable liquid storage tank permits:

- a. Thirty (30) days . . . 100.00
- b. One hundred eighty (180) days . . . 100.00
- c. One (1) year . . . 200.00

(9) Hazardous chemical tank, per ninety (90) days . . . 100.00

(10) Fixed pipe automatic extinguishing systems in hoods and ducts, per system . . . 150.00

(11) Explosive site permit:

- a. Utilities, per ninety (90) days . . . 200.00
- b. Excavation, per thirty (30) days . . . 200.00
- c. Swimming pools and septic, per thirty (30) days . . . 150.00
- d. Pyrotechnics, per day . . . 150.00

Maximum per event . . . 450.00

(12) a. Sprinkler system permit. A sprinkler system permit fee shall be assessed for reviewing plans, inspecting, and hydrostatic testing of sprinkler systems. The fee will be assessed according to the following schedule: one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for

any system with one (1) to twenty (20) heads; two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for any system with twenty-one (21) to two hundred (200) heads; two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the first two hundred (200) heads plus seventy-five cents (\$0.75) for each additional head with a maximum fee of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per floor. In addition, if the sprinkler system is located on more than one (1) floor, the fee will also include a charge of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each additional floor. (Basements or underground levels are considered floors for purposes of this fee.)

b. Major sprinkler system work permit. A major sprinkler system work permit fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be assessed for major sprinkler system related work not involving sprinkler head modifications. The Fire Chief or his designee shall make the final determination of whether a system modification constitutes major sprinkler system related work; however, the following modifications shall always constitute major work: installation of a fire pump, underground fire main, riser, supply main, cross main or any other change that could significantly affect the hydraulic characteristics of the system.

c. Sprinkler system remodel permit. If a modification of an existing sprinkler system is planned in a building (or an area of a building), a sprinkler system remodel permit fee shall be required prior to start of construction and a fee assessed according to the following schedule: twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50) per head for the first nine (9) head modifications; one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for ten (10) to twenty (20) head modifications; two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for any system with twenty-one (21) to two hundred (200) heads; two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the first two hundred (200) heads plus seventy-five cents (\$0.75) per head for each additional head modification with a maximum fee of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per floor. If the modification of the sprinkler system is located on more than one (1) floor, the fee will also include a charge of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each additional floor. (Basements or underground levels are considered floors for purposes of this fee.)

d. Underground fire lane. A fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) shall be assessed for testing and approving an installed underground fire lane.

e. Standpipes. A fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the first standpipe and one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) thereafter shall be assessed for testing and approving installed standpipes.

f. Hydrants. A fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the first hydrant and one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) thereafter shall be assessed for testing and approving installed hydrants.

g. Fast track sprinkler system permit . . . 100.00

(13) a. Fire alarm system permit. A fee shall be assessed for reviewing plans, inspecting and testing of fire alarm systems. The fee shall be assessed based on the following schedule: One hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for any system with one (1) to twenty (20) initiating or signaling devices; two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for any system with twenty-one (21) to two hundred (200) devices; two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the first two hundred (200) devices plus seventy-five cents (\$0.75) for each additional device with a maximum fee of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per floor. In addition, if the fire alarm is located on more than one (1) floor, the fee will also include a charge of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each additional floor. (Basements or underground levels are considered floors for purposes of this fee.)

The permit fee for major fire alarm system work not involving modification of initiating and/or signaling devices is one hundred dollars (\$100.00). The fire chief shall make the final determination of whether a system modification constitutes major fire alarm system related work; however, the following modifications shall

always constitute major work: installations of a fire alarm panel, or any other significant modification of the system.

b. Fire alarm remodel permit. If a modification of an existing fire alarm system is planned in a building (or area of a building), then a fire alarm system remodel permit shall be required prior to start of construction and a fee assessed according to the following schedule: Twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50) per initiating or signaling device modification for the first nine (9) initiating or signaling device modifications; one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for one (1) to twenty (20) device modifications; two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for any system with twenty-one (21) to two hundred (200) device modifications; two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the first two hundred (200) devices plus seventy-five cents (\$0.75) for each additional device modification with a maximum fee of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per floor. If the modification of the fire alarm system is located on more than one (1) floor, the fee will also include a charge of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each additional floor. (Basements or underground levels are considered floors for purposes of this fee.)

(14) Float and food booth permit, per day . . . \$ 30.00

(15) Bonfire permit, per event . . . 544.50

(16) Fireworks display permit, per event . . . 544.50

(17) Amusement parks:

a. Annual fireworks/pyrotechnics display . . . 484.00

b. Pyrotechnics display . . . 242.00

(18) Amusement park fireworks annual storage permit . . . 121.00

(19) Waste oil and class III B combustible liquid tank permit . . . 150.00

(20) Special event inspection fee. A fee for special event inspection is hereby established according to the following schedule: two hundred seventy five dollars (\$275.00) for events less than five thousand (5,000) square feet, and four hundred twenty five dollars (\$425.00) for events of five thousand (5,000) square feet or more.

(21) Annual night club inspection fee. An annual fee for night club inspection is hereby established according to the following schedule: one hundred seventy five dollars (\$175.00) for night clubs with an occupant load of less than three hundred (300), and two hundred seventy five dollars (\$275.00) for night clubs with an occupant load of three hundred (300) or more.

(b) The fee for tracing flammable liquid leaks to the source by the fire prevention division of the fire department is hereby established at two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

(c) (1) Reinspection fee. A reinspection fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed for each inspection or reinspection when work for which an inspection or reinspection is requested is not approved. A reinspection fee may also be assessed when the permit is not properly posted on the work site, when the approved plans are not readily available to the inspector, when access is not provided on the date for which inspection is requested or for noncompliance with approved plans, requiring reinspection and approval of the fire official. All reinspection fees shall be paid before final release of public utilities and issuance of the certificate of occupancy.

(2) Minor re-inspection fee . . . 35.00

(3) General inspection fee . . . 75.00

(d) A fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for test and thirty dollars (\$30.00) per subsequent

test shall be assessed for testing required smoke control systems.

(e) Preliminary review of plans. The following fee schedule is hereby established for preliminary review of plans by the fire department: A minimum fee of seventy five dollars (\$75.00) per hour, one hour minimum) for the review of plans prior to submission for approval shall be assessed for the first hour the fire department is involved in the review to be paid prior to the review; For each additional hour or portion thereof, there shall be an additional minimum charge of seventy five dollars (\$75.00). Incurred fees not prepaid must be paid prior to issuance of the building permit.

(f) A fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for testing and approving an installed gaseous suppression system, such as halon, and carbon dioxide.

(g) Fees for state required annual inspections:

(1) a. State required annual inspections of any child daycare facility licensed to serve twelve (12) children or less that requires certification or approval by the fire marshal's office shall be assessed a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) which shall be remitted at the fire marshal's office prior to the required inspection.

b. State required annual inspections of foster homes, half-way houses, group care homes or similar short-term placement occupancies that require certification or approval by the fire marshal's office shall be assessed a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) which shall be remitted at the fire marshal's office prior to the required inspection.

c. State required annual inspections of any child daycare facility licensed to serve more than twelve (12) children that requires certification or approval by the fire marshal's office shall be assessed a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), which shall be remitted to the fire marshal's office prior to the required inspection.

d. State required annual inspections of adult daycare facility or other similar occupancy that requires certification or approval by the fire marshal's office shall be assessed a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), which shall be remitted to the fire marshal's office prior to the required inspection.

(2) a. State required annual inspection of hospitals or other similar occupancies that require certification or approval by the fire marshal's office shall be assessed a fee based on the number of beds in the facility. The inspection fee will consist of a charge of three dollars (\$3.00) per bed with a minimum fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and a maximum fee of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00).

b. State required annual inspection of nursing homes or other similar occupancies that require certification or approval by the fire marshal's office shall be assessed a fee based on the number of beds in the facility. The inspection fee will consist of a charge of three dollars (\$3.00) per bed with a minimum fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and a maximum fee of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00).

(3) State or private/public required annual inspections of laboratories, clinics and bonded warehouses or other similar occupancies that require certification or approval by the fire marshal's office shall be assessed a fee which shall be remitted at the fire marshal's office prior to the required inspection as follows:

Laboratories, clinics, rehabilitation facilities . . . \$150.00

Bonded warehouses or other similar occupancies . . . 150.00

(h) Aboveground storage tank fee. A permit fee of three hundred thirty dollars (\$330.00) for each aboveground storage tank regardless of capacity is hereby established and shall be assessed for the construction of any permanent aboveground storage tank used for the storage

of flammable liquids, combustible liquids, or hazardous materials, and shall be paid prior to commencement of any construction. Plans must be submitted for approval prior to the issuance of a permit.

(i) Underground storage tank fee. A permit fee of two hundred twenty five dollars (\$225.00) per underground storage tank shall be assessed for the inspection of the installation, interior lining, filling with inert material or removal of any underground storage tank used for the storage of flammable liquids, combustible liquids or hazardous materials. A permit shall be obtained prior to commencement of any activity stated above.

(j) (1) Retest fee. If a retest of a fire protection system or portion thereof is necessary due to failure of a previous test, a retest fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per retest shall be paid at the fire marshal's office prior to retesting.

(2) Rescheduling fee. If a test or a retest of any fire protection system is canceled within four (4) hours of the scheduled test, a rescheduling fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) shall be paid prior to rescheduling of the required test.

(k) (1) If special circumstances warrant, the chief may allow an inspector to conduct an inspection or test after normal working hours when a request is made by a contractor or owner's representative. The cost for each service is seventy dollars (\$70.00) per man-hour with a minimum of two (2) hours. Payment shall be remitted at the fire marshal's office prior to the inspection.

(2) If special circumstances warrant, the use of a fire watch, the cost for each fire department employee engaged in the fire watch is seventy dollars (\$70.00) per man-hour with a minimum of two (2) hours. Included as part of the seventy dollar (\$70.00) fee is a fire watch administrative fee of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per man-hour to cover the cost of administering the fire watch service.

(l) Service fee for use of 3M ATC fire-fighting foam:

(1) The recipients of emergency fire-fighting service which utilizes 3M ATC fire-fighting foam, shall pay a "fire-fighting foam fee" to the City of San Antonio for its use of said agent, in an amount sufficient to restore the amount of foam used for the emergency.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, the amount of the fee to be paid shall be no greater than the low, qualified bid received by the city in response to a request made for the purchase of 3M ATC fire-fighting foam following the emergency in question.

(3) The recipient of emergency service utilizing the 3M ATC foam shall have thirty (30) days from the date of receiving the fee bill to pay said fee.

(4) Failure to pay the fee within these thirty (30) days may result in the invalidation of the hazardous materials handling permit for the facility where the fire occurred.

(m) A fee of six hundred dollars (\$600.00) shall be assessed to any individual that a fire unit of the City of San Antonio Fire Department rescues or attempts to rescue at a low-water crossing.

(n) A fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per request and fifty-five cents (\$0.55) per additional page shall be assessed for routine fire reports, fire reports without case number, fire records searches, plans, codes or references. The fire records search fee shall apply for fire record searches when individuals do not know the incident number and searches are required to be made to find the incident question.

(o) An environmental research fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per address request shall be assessed. This environmental research fee shall apply for record searches relating to hazardous incidents and hazardous materials storage at a specific location where fire department staff must conduct research to find the requested information.

(p) A filing fee of one hundred fifty-five dollars (\$155.00) is required to be submitted in order to

file an appeal with the building and fire code board of appeals. A filing fee of one hundred fifty-five dollars (\$155.00) is required to be submitted in order to file an appeal of the decision of the building and fire code board of appeals with city council.

(q) Reserved.

(r) A permit fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each waste oil tank is hereby established for the review of plans and inspection of the installation of the waste oil tank.

(s) A permit fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each site of a fuel line not part of an underground storage tank is hereby established for the inspection and testing of said fuel line.

(t) A permit fee of two hundred and fifty seven and 50/100 dollars (\$257.50) for each spray paint booth is here established for the review of plans and the inspection of the installation of each spray paint booth.

(u) A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per request shall be assessed for changing the address on hazardous material permits, inspection reports, and other records.

(v) Reserved.

(w) A fee of four hundred forty dollars (\$440.00) per hour is hereby established for recovery of costs associated with commercial trench/confined space rescue incidents.

(Code 1959, § 15-10.5; Ord. No. 57561, §§ 1, 2, 9-15-83; Ord. No. 59317, § 2, 9-4-84; Ord. No. 61331, §§ 1-3, 8-29-85; Ord. No. 65619, § 1, 9-3-87; Ord. No. 67921, §§ 1-9, 9-15-88; Ord. No. 70251, §§ 1, 2, 4, 5, 11-14, 16, 9-14-89; Ord. No. 72268, § 1, 9-13-90; Ord. No. 72437, § 5, 10-4-90; Ord. No. 74296, §§ 1-3, 9-12-91; Ord. No. 76468, §§ 1--5, 9-10-92; Ord. No. 76471, § 1, 9-10-92; Ord. No. 76473, § 1, 9-10-92; Ord. No. 76576, §§ 1, 2, 9-24-92; Ord. No. 78729, §§ 1, 2, 9-15-93; Ord. No. 79918, § 2, 3-31-94; Ord. No. 80784, § 1, 9-14-94; Ord. No. 86608, §§ 1--24, 9-11-97; Ord. No. 90493, §§ 1, 4, 9-16-99; Ord. No. 91127, § 1, 1-13-00; Ord. No. 92515, § 2, 9-14-00; Ord. No. 94582, § 5, 9-20-01; Ord. No. 98186, §§ 1--6, 9-18-03; Ord. No. 99734, §§ 1--3, 9-16-04; Ord. No. 101400, § 1, 9-15-05; Ord. No. 2007-04-05-0360, § 1, 4-5-07; Ord. No. 2007-09-13-0973F, § 1, 9-13-07; Ord. No. 2007-09-13-0973L, § 3, 9-13-07; Ord. No. 2008-09-11-0777B, § 1, 9-11-08; Ord. No. 2008-09-11-0777G, § 9, 9-11-08)

**Editor's note:** Ord. No. 79918, § 2, adopted March 31, 1994, amended this chapter by the deletion of former § 11-16, relative to new materials, processes and occupancies requiring permit, and renumbered former §§ 11-17 and 11-18 as §§ 11-16 and 11-17 respectively. Former § 11-16 derived from Code 1959, § 15-10; Ord. No. 55205, § 2, adopted April 15, 1982; and Ord. No. 65619, § 1, adopted Sept. 3, 1987.

### **Sec. 11-17. Fee for firefighting unit on stand-by basis.**

The following fee is established for the engagement of a fully equipped reserve firefighting unit by outside agencies on a stand-by basis as follows:

(1) A fee of two hundred fifty (\$250.00) per hour, or fraction thereof, per vehicle shall be charged to outside agencies required by or requesting the city to furnish a fully equipped reserve firefighting unit for standby fire protection within the city. Services shall be for a minimum of two (2) hours, with additional hours, or fractions thereof, to be paid at the full rate of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00); and

(2) The following rules will apply when the city makes such services available:

a. The fee will cover all costs associated with the rental and staffing of the firefighting vehicle.

b. Personnel operating the fire vehicle shall be employees of the San Antonio Fire Department.

(Ord. No. 74295, § 1, 9-12-91; Ord. No. 79918, § 2, 3-31-94)

**Note:** See the editor's note to § 11-16.

### **Sec. 11-18. Fee for videotape of arson evidence record.**

The fee for a videotape copy of an arson evidence record is seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).

(Ord. No. 84793, § 5, 9-19-96)

### **Sec. 11-19. Fee for duplicating dispatch tapes.**

The fee for duplicating dispatch tapes of the emergency medical services division of the fire department in the amount of one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) for each audio cassette tape and thirty dollars (\$30.00) per hour.

(Ord. No. 90501, § 1, 9-16-99)

### **Sec. 11-20. Fees for use of San Antonio Fire Department Training Academy by outside agencies.**

The fee schedules set out below for use of the San Antonio Fire Department Training Academy by outside agencies are hereby established.

TABLE INSET:

<i>Classroom and Drill Field use only</i>	
SAFD Instructors (if required, i.e., weekends or after hours)	\$65.00 per hour, per instructor
Classroom Fee (with no equipment use)	\$10.00 per hour
Drill Field	\$10.00 per hour
Classroom Fee (with AV equipment use)	\$15.00 per hour
<i>Live Fire Training</i>	
Instructors (5 students per instructor, minimum 2 SAFD instructors)	\$65.00 per hour per instructor
Natural Gas Burn	\$100.00 per day
Class A Burn	\$75.00 per day
Student Fee	\$10.00 per student (10 students minimum)
Classroom Fee (if used)	\$10.00 per hour
<i>Stand Alone Specialty Classes</i>	
Specialized Classes (such as ropes, extrication, wildland firefighting)	\$50.00 per class per student
<i>CPAT Testing</i>	
CPAT Certification, when done concurrent with SAFD CPAT	\$25.00 per person
Out of Cycle CPAT	\$400.00 per hour (4 hours minimum)

(Ord. No. 2008-09-11-0777B, § 3, 9-11-08)

Secs. 11-21--11-30. Reserved.