

Question: How will I get billed?

Answer: If you own a property that is assessed the charge, then you will receive a postcard in the mail stating the amount of the charge and then you will be billed on your regular property tax statement.

Question: How is the Fire Benefit Charge computed?

Answer: The charge is determined by taking the square root of the square footage of the property, times 18, times the type of usage factor, times the cost per gallon. The type of usage factor depends on the type of structure, number of stories, and square footage for commercial occupancies. All of this can be found on our website.

Question: Why a Fire Benefit Charge?

Answer: The Fire Benefit Charge is necessary to collect revenue that is more appropriate for the associated risk and need for emergency services. It will also allow the Department to collect money from structures that have not previously been contributing, yet have received the same fire protection services as the rest of the community. The funds collected will be used to increase training and address the needs outlined in our Long Range Plan such as capital project purchases, staffing, and fire prevention programs.

Question: How much will the Fire Benefit Charge cost me?

Answer: All charges will differ depending on different factors. All properties will be listed on our website with the associated charge. The following are two examples:

500 sq ft Condo in a 2-story complex with \$.075 cost per gallon
 $22.36(\text{sqrt}500) \times 18 \times 3(\text{type factor}) \times \$.075 = \$90.56 \text{ FBC}$

3,000 sq ft 2-story Commercial building with \$.075 cost/gallon
 $54.77(\text{sqrt}3000) \times 18 \times 6(\text{type factor}) \times \$.075 = \$443.66 \text{ FBC}$

Our website address is: www.snoqualmiepassfire.org



There will be a funding proposition for our Fire Department on the ballot in the August 19th primary election.

Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue
Proposition 1, Fire Benefit Charge
Informational Brochure



*Remember to **Vote***
August 19, 2008

First, note that single-family homes will NOT be assessed the Fire Benefit Charge. This charge will be assessed on multi-family and commercial structures, our higher risk structures.

Another factor is there are many structures that currently cannot be taxed because they are on public land. These include cabins or commercial buildings on forest service land, county, and state owned buildings. Currently, some of them are not paying fire department taxes, but are protected by our fire department. The Fire Benefit Charge will allow the Department to easily add these missing structures to our revenue stream.



The Fire Benefit Charge is a funding source that is designed to assess a charge on a structure appropriate to its level of fire and emergency services risk. It is computed using a formula that includes the square footage of the structure, type of structure use, and the number of stories. These factors determine the overall risk of the building which is then used to determine the amount of the charge.

For example, a single-family home does not have the same risk as a fourth story condo unit, or the same as a commercial occupancy. Similarly, a condo unit with a view poses no higher risk than one without a view, yet it has a higher assessed value and therefore pays more taxes under the current system.

The August Primary Election will help determine how we fund and address the Fire District's daily emergency operations and future programs. Please give this issue regarding the future funding of our emergency services careful consideration when you vote on August 19th 2008.



I would like to invite you to attend the Board of Fire Commissioners (your elected representatives) regular open public meetings held on the second Monday of each month at 4:30 pm. We are also holding a public hearing regarding the Fire Benefit Charge on August 5th at 6:30 pm. The meetings are held at our fire station located across the street from the Summit West ski area. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 396-6287 or e-mail me at: mattc@snoqualmiepassfire.org

Sincerely,

*Matt Cowan
Fire Chief*

