



CITY OF EDMONTON

BYLAW 15309

FIRE RESCUE SERVICES BYLAW

(CONSOLIDATED ON JANUARY 01, 2025)

THE CITY OF EDMONTON
BYLAW 15309
FIRE RESCUE SERVICES BYLAW

Whereas, pursuant to Section 7 of the *Municipal Government Act*, a Council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the following matters:

- (a) the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;
- (b) people, activities and things in, on or near a public place or place that is open to the public;
- (c) the enforcement of bylaws made under this or any other enactment, including any or all of the following:
 - (i) the creation of offences;
 - (ii) for each offence, imposing a fine not exceeding \$10 000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both;
 - (iii) providing for the imposition of a penalty for an offence that is in addition to a fine or imprisonment so long as the penalty relates to a fee, cost, rate, toll or charge that is associated with the conduct that gives rise to the offence;
 - (iv) providing that a specified penalty prescribed under section 44 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act* is reduced by a specified amount if the penalty is paid within a specified time;
 - (v) providing for imprisonment for not more than one year for non-payment of a fine or penalty;
 - (vi) providing that a person who contravenes a bylaw may pay an amount established by bylaw and if the amount is paid, the person will not be prosecuted for the contravention;
 - (vii) providing for inspections to determine if bylaws are being complied with;
 - (viii) remedying contraventions of bylaws.

And Whereas, pursuant to Section 66 of the *Safety Codes Act*, the City of Edmonton as an accredited municipality may make bylaws respecting fees for anything issued or material or service provided pursuant to the Act.

Edmonton City Council enacts:

PART I - PURPOSE, DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- PURPOSE** 1 The purpose of this bylaw is to establish regulations for activities of persons in relation to fire rescue services provided by the City and to set fees and charges for such fire rescue services.
- DEFINITIONS** 2 (1) In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) “Apparatus” means any fire rescue response vehicle, staffed and provided with equipment or materials for the purposes of fire fighting, rescue operations, medical response and the clean-up of Hazardous Material, as well as vehicles used to transport Members, supplies, or contracted personnel required for such fire fighting, rescue, medical response or clean-up;
 - (a.1) “Alarm Business means any person in the business of
 - (i) selling, leasing, installing, maintaining, repairing, replacing or servicing Fire Alarm Systems that request a response from fire rescue services upon being activated, or
 - (ii) monitoring or reporting Fire Alarm System activations to fire rescue services.
(S.2, Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025)
 - (b) “Basic Motor Vehicle Incident” means a motor vehicle incident that does not involve one or more of the following:
 - (i) a Hazardous Material spill, leak or other release that requires a response by the HazMat Response Team;
 - (ii) a Hazardous Material spill, leak or other release for which a third party has provided labour, services, equipment or materials for the purpose of clean-up;
 - (c) “City” means the City of Edmonton;
 - (d) “City Manager” means the chief administrative officer of the City or his delegate;
 - (e) “emergency” includes a situation in which there is imminent danger to public safety or of serious harm to property;

- (f) “Fire Alarm System” means any mechanical or electrical device which is designed or used for the detection and alert of heat, smoke or fire;
(S.3, Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025)
- (g) “Fire Investigation” means the process of determining the origin, cause and circumstances of a fire or emergency pursuant to the Safety Codes Act. (S.2, Bylaw 19644, April 19, 2021)
- (h) “Fire Marshal” means the Member designated by the City to be in charge of fire prevention activities within the City of Edmonton;
- (i) “Hazardous Material” means any material or substance that may constitute an immediate or long term adverse effect to life, health, property or the environment when burned, spilled, leaked or otherwise released from its normal use, handling, storage or transportation environment and shall include those products, substances and organisms that are covered by applicable Provincial and Federal legislation and guidelines;
- (j) “Incident” means any situation to which the City has responded due to the danger or a possible danger to the safety, health and welfare of people, property or the environment;
- (k) “Member” means any employee of the Fire Rescue Services branch of the City;
- (l) “municipal tag” means a ticket alleging an offence issued pursuant to the authority of a bylaw of the City;
- (m) “owner” means:
 - (i) in the case of land the person registered under the *Land Titles Act* as the owner of the fee simple estate in a parcel of land; or
 - (ii) in the case of a personal property the person in lawful possession or who has the right to exercise control over it or to be the registered owner of it;
- (n) “person” means any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, trustee, executor, administrator or other legal representative;
- (o) “Response” means the arrival of Apparatus to the location

of the Incident, and all actions taken with respect to the Incident;

- (p) “Safety Codes Act” includes the regulations and bylaws made under the Act and any code, standards, or body of rules declared to be in force pursuant to the Act;
- (q) “Security Alarm” means an alarm system intended to detect an unauthorized entry to a premises or to alert people to the commission of an unlawful act, or both; and
- (r) “violation ticket” has the same meaning as in the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*.

- 2 (1.1) “Unwanted Alarm” means the activation of a Fire Alarm System at any type of property, regardless of how caused, as a result of which a fire rescue services response is provided where no actual danger or possible danger to the safety, health and welfare of people, property or the environment exists;
- (1.2) “Unwanted Alarm Fee” means the amount determined by the City Manager payable for the fire rescue services response to an Unwanted Alarm;
(S.4, Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025)

**RULES FOR
INTEPRETATION**

- 3 The table of contents, marginal notes and headings in this bylaw are for reference purposes only.

PART II – REGULATION OF ACTIVITIES

**INTERFERENCE
WITH DUTIES**

- 4 No person shall interfere with or in any manner hinder a person authorized by the City to investigate or extinguish fires while such authorized person is in the performance and execution of their duties.

**INTERFERENCE
WITH EQUIPMENT**

- 5 No person shall obstruct or interfere with the operation or use of any fire hydrant, emergency use water inlet or outlet connection on a building, fire alarm control panel, manual alarm station or any fire detection device or equipment.

FIRE HYDRANTS

- 6 No person shall open, cause or permit to be opened a fire hydrant to obtain or discharge water unless authorized to do so by the City.

FIRE HOSES

- 7 No person shall move a fire hose or cause or permit a vehicle to be driven over a fire hose at the scene of a fire unless authorized to do so by the officer in charge of the site.

ASSISTANCE ORDERS 8 A person who receives an oral or written order from a person authorized by the City to extinguish fires requiring the person to provide labour, services, equipment or materials to assist in extinguishing a fire shall comply with the order.

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UNWANTED ALARM 9 (1) No person, including an owner or an Alarm Business, shall cause, whether directly or indirectly, or permit an Unwanted Alarm.

(2) No Person shall provide false or misleading information about the activation of a Fire Alarm System to a Member.
(S.5, Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025)

NOTIFICATION OF WORK 9.1 Where there is a Fire Alarm System on the property, and the owner intends to undertake, or allow the undertaking of any service, test, repair, maintenance, adjustment, alteration or installation of that system which might activate an Unwanted Alarm, prior to the work occurring:

(a) the owner must notify the City directly through the fire drill line posted on the City website, and

(b) where an Alarm Business is responsible for the Fire Alarm System, the owner must notify the Alarm Business, and the Alarm Business must notify the City directly through the fire drill posted on the City website.

UNWANTED ALARM FEE 9.2 (1) Upon a second or any subsequent or any subsequent occurrence of an Unwanted Alarm during any consecutive 12 month period, the City Manager may provide the owner with an invoice setting out the Unwanted Alarm Fee owing and directions for payment.

(2) Despite subsection (1), upon any occurrence of an Unwanted Alarm, where the City Manager has received evidence that the Unwanted Alarm was caused by the negligence of an owner, or intentionally by an owner, the City Manager may provide the owner with an invoice setting out the owing Unwanted Alarm Fee and directions for payment, which could include the entirety of the costs of the fire rescue services response for the Unwanted Alarm.

**REQUEST FOR
WAIVER OF FEE**

- 9.3 (1) An owner may request a waiver of an Unwanted Alarm Fee no later than 14 days from the date the City sends the owner an Unwanted Alarm Fee invoice.
- (2) Before a request for waiver can be processed, the owner must provide evidence in a manner and form acceptable to the City Manager within 60 days of the date the City sends the owner an Unwanted Alarm Fee invoice, showing that:
- (a) the Unwanted Alarm was caused by the action of some other person other than:
 - (i) the owner or the owner's officers, agents, employees, independent contractors or any other person subject to the direct or indirect control of the owner,
 - (ii) the person who installed, connected, operated, maintained or serviced the Fire Alarm System, or
 - (iii) the manufacturer of the Fire Alarm System, including the manufacturer's officers, agents, employees, independent contractors or any person subject to the direct or indirect control of the manufacturer; or
 - (b) based on the evidence provided it is in the public interest not to charge a fee, including where:
 - (i) the Unwanted Alarm was caused by a severe storm, lightning, tornado or other extreme act of nature,
 - (ii) the Unwanted Alarm was caused unintentionally through human accident, or
 - (iii) there was an error caused by the City in the issuance of the invoice.
- (3) A response to the request will be provided to the requesting owner within 60 days of the City receiving the evidence provided under subsection (2).
- (4) Any decision on a waiver requested under this section 9.3 will be made at the City Manager's sole discretion.
(S.6, Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025)

**UNAUTHORIZED
KEY**

10 No person shall use or have in their possession or control any key for a vehicle used to respond to or extinguish fires, or for a fire alarm or elevator control key box unless authorized by the City.

IMPERSONATION

- 11 (1) No person shall use or have in their possession or control identification, insignia, equipment or a uniform used in relation to the fire rescue services provided by the City unless permitted by the City Manager.
- (2) No person shall represent themselves as a firefighter or a person providing City fire rescue services unless permitted by the City Manager.

REPORTS

- 12 (1) The owner of any property damaged by fire shall report all particulars of the fire forthwith to the City.
- (2) The owner of any property on which a hazardous material is released shall report all particulars of the release forthwith to the City.
- (3) Any person releasing, causing or permitting the release of a hazardous material shall report all particulars of the release forthwith to the City.

PART III - ENFORCEMENT

OFFENCE

13 A person who contravenes this bylaw is guilty of an offence.

**CONTINUING
OFFENCE**

14 In the case of an offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention constitutes a separate offence in respect of each day, or part of a day, on which it continues and a person guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine in an amount no less than that established by this bylaw for each such day.

**VICARIOUS
LIABILITY**

15 For the purposes of this bylaw, an act or omission by an employee or agent of a person is deemed also to be an act or omission of the person if the act or omission occurred in the course of the employee's employment with the person, or in the course of the agent's exercising the powers or performing the duties on behalf of the person under their agency relationship.

**CORPORATIONS
AND
PARTNERSHIPS**

16 (1) When a corporation commits an offence under this bylaw, every principal, director, manager, employee or agent of the corporation who authorized the act or omission that constitutes the offence or assented to or acquiesced or participated in the act or omission that constitutes the offence is guilty of the offence whether or not the corporation has been prosecuted for the offence.

(2) If a partner in a partnership is guilty of an offence under this bylaw, each partner in that partnership who authorized the act or omission that constitutes the offence or assented to or acquiesced or participated in the act or omission that constitutes the offence is guilty of the offence.

FINES AND PENALTIES

- 17 (1) A person who is guilty of an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than that established in this section, and not exceeding \$10,000.00, and to imprisonment for not more than six months for non-payment of a fine.
- (2) Without restricting the generality of subsection (1) the following fine amounts are established for use on municipal tags and violation tickets if a voluntary payment option is offered:
- (a) \$1,500.00 for any offence for which a fine is not otherwise established in this section;
 - (b) \$500.00 for any offence under Sections 6 and 12(1); and
 - (c) \$2,500.00 for any offence under sections 4, 5 and 7.

MUNICIPAL TAG

18 If a municipal tag is issued in respect of an offence the municipal tag must specify the fine amount established by this bylaw for the offence.

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF PROSECUTION

19 A person who commits an offence may, if a municipal tag is issued in respect of the offence, pay the fine amount established by this bylaw for the offence and if the amount is paid on or before the required date, the person will not be prosecuted for the offence.

VIOLATION TICKET

20 If a violation ticket is issued in respect of an offence, the violation ticket may:

- (a) specify the fine amount established by this bylaw for the offence; or
- (b) require a person to appear in court without the alternative of making a voluntary payment.

VOLUNTARY PAYMENT

21 A person who commits an offence may:

- (a) if a violation ticket is issued in respect of the offence; and
- (b) if the violation ticket specifies the fine amount established by this bylaw for the offence;

make a voluntary payment equal to the specified fine.

**ORDER TO
COMPLY**

- 22 (1) If the City Manager believes, on reasonable grounds, that a person is contravening any provision of this bylaw, the City Manager may, by written order, require any person responsible for the contravention to remedy it.
- (2) The order may:
- (a) direct a person to stop doing something, or to change the way in which the person is doing it;
 - (b) direct a person to take any action or measures necessary to remedy the contravention of the bylaw and, if necessary, to prevent a re-occurrence of the contravention;
 - (c) state a time within which the person must comply with the directions;
 - (d) state that if the person does not comply with the directions within a specified time, the City will take the action or measure.
- (3) A person named in and served with an order issued pursuant to this section shall comply with any action or measure required to be taken within the time specified.
- (4) An order issued pursuant to this section may be served:
- (a) in the case of an individual:
 - (i) by delivering it personally to the individual;
 - (ii) by leaving it for the individual at their apparent place of residence with someone who appears to be at least 18 years of age; or
 - (iii) by mail addressed to the individual at their apparent place of residence or at any address for the individual on the tax roll of the City or at the Land Titles registry;
 - (b) in the case of a corporation:
 - (i) by delivering personally to any director or officer of the corporation;
 - (ii) by delivering it personally to a person apparently in charge of an office of the corporation at an address

held out by the corporation to be its address; or

- (iii) by mail addressed to the registered office of the corporation.

PART IV - GENERAL

**POWERS OF THE
CITY MANAGER**

- 23 Without restricting any other power, duty or function granted by this bylaw or any other legislation the City Manager may:
- (a) carry out inspections to determine compliance with this bylaw;
 - (b) take any steps or carry out any actions required to remedy a contravention of this bylaw;
 - (c) take any steps or carry out any actions required to remedy a contravention of this bylaw;
 - (d) establish forms for the purposes of this bylaw;
 - (e) issue permits with such terms and conditions as are deemed appropriate;
 - (f) establish the criteria to be met for a permit pursuant to this bylaw;
 - (g) waive any fees or charges owing pursuant to this Bylaw; and
 - (h) delegate any powers, duties or functions under this bylaw to an employee of the City.

**EMERGENCY
POWERS OF THE
CITY MANAGER**

- 24 Without restricting any other power, duty or function granted by this bylaw or any other legislation the City Manager may, in an emergency, take whatever actions or measures are necessary to eliminate or mitigate the emergency including:
- (a) causing a building or structure to be demolished or removed;
 - (b) entering a property or building with any required persons and equipment;
 - (c) prohibiting the entry of unauthorized persons to any prescribed area or to within a certain distance of the location of any emergency;

- (d) requesting members of a police service to provide assistance in enforcing any of these powers;
- (e) providing an oral or written order requiring a person to provide labour, services, equipment or materials to assist in eliminating or mitigating the emergency.

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POWER TO SET AND CHARGE FEES

- 25 (1) The City Manager may set and charge fees relating to the following services provided by fire rescue services based on the actual cost of providing the service, plus an administration fee:
- (a) fire inspections;
 - (b) permits;
 - (c) fire response or requested services;
 - (d) administration; and
 - (e) any other material or service provided, or permit issued, by fire rescue services pursuant to the Safety Codes Act.
- (2) The fees provided for in subsection (1) may be charged to any person requiring or requesting one or more of the services described in subsection (1).

EXTRAORDINARY AND UNUSUAL COSTS

- 26 (1) The City Manager may charge an additional fee where the actual cost of providing a service exceeds the amount set by the City Manager under section 25 because of reasons outside of fire rescue services' control, and providing the service:
- (a) took an unusually long time;
 - (b) required specialized equipment, Apparatus or materials; or
 - (c) required specialized labour, or additional contracted labour, that is not normally required to perform that service.
- (2) The additional fee provided for in subsection (1) must reflect the actual cost of providing the service, plus an administration fee.
- (3) If Apparatus is damaged, or contaminated by a Hazardous Material, in the course of fire rescue services providing any

service, the City Manager may charge a fee reflecting the cost of the damage.

- (4) The fees provided for in this section 26 may be charged to any person who benefits from the service provided, which may include, but is not limited to, a registered owner of a vehicle, an owner of the parcel of land, an owner of any other property, or any person legally in care and control of the property.

INVOICING OF FEES

27 A person who is charged a fee pursuant to section 25 or 26 will be provided with an invoice setting out the fees owing.

PAYMENT OF FEES

28 (1) Any person who is charged a fee pursuant to this Bylaw must pay the fee within the time and in the manner specified on the invoice issued under section 27.

- (2) Any fee that is not paid becomes a debt owing to the City by the person to whom the fee was charged, which, where permitted under the Municipal Government Act, may be added by the City to the tax roll of the property where the services were provided.

OWNER LIABLE

29 The owner of a parcel of land is liable for expenses and costs related to the City extinguishing fires on the parcel.
(S.7, Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025)

PERMITS

30 (1) A person to whom a permit has been issued pursuant to this bylaw, and any person carrying out an activity otherwise regulated, restricted or prohibited by this bylaw pursuant to such permit, shall comply with any terms or conditions forming part of the permit.

- (2) A person shall not make any false or misleading statement or provide any false or misleading information to obtain a permit pursuant to this bylaw.

- (3) If any term or condition of a permit issued pursuant to this bylaw if contravened or if a false or misleading statement or false or misleading information was provided to obtain the permit, the City Manager may immediately cancel the permit.

PROOF OF PERMIT

31 The onus of proving a permit has been issued in relation to any activity otherwise regulated, restricted or prohibited by this bylaw is on the person alleging the existence of such a permit on a balance of probabilities.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RECORD

32 A copy of a record of the City, certified by the City Manager as a true copy of the original, shall be admitted in evidence as prima

facie proof of the facts stated in the record without proof of the appointment or signature of the person signing it.

NUMBER AND GENDER REFERENCES	33	All references in this bylaw will be read with such changes in number and gender as may be appropriate according to whether the reference is to a male or female person, or a corporation or partnership.
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PART V - TRANSITIONAL

REPEALS	34	The following bylaws are repealed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Bylaw 10709, Being a Bylaw to Deal with the Provision of Ambulance Service Within the City of Edmonton; (b) Bylaw 13567, The City of Edmonton Emergency Response Fees and Charges Bylaw; and (c) Bylaw 10801, The City of Edmonton Fire and Ambulance Bylaw.
EFFECTIVE DATE	35	This bylaw takes effect beginning on December 1, 2012.
ANNEXATION IMPLEMENTATION	36	The City Manager may approve exemptions or modifications to this bylaw, including the power to waive fees, where such power exemptions or modifications are consistent with inter-municipal negotiations resulting in Order in Council 359/2018. (S.11, Bylaw 18666, January 22, 2019)

(NOTE: Consolidation made under Section 69 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c.M-26 and Bylaw 16620 Section 16, and printed under the City Manager's authority)

Bylaw 15309, passed by Council December 1, 2012

Amendments

- Bylaw 16310, January 1, 2013
- Bylaw 16652, January 1, 2014
- Bylaw 17476, January 26, 2016
- Bylaw 17869, February 7, 2017
- Bylaw 18270, February 13, 2018
- Bylaw 18666, January 22, 2019
- Bylaw 19167, February 3, 2020
- Bylaw 19234, May 12, 2020
- Bylaw 19580, April 6, 2021
- Bylaw 19644, April 19, 2021
- Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025

SCHEDULE A – FIRE INSPECTIONS

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(S.8, Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025)

SCHEDULE B – PERMITS

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(S.8, Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025)

SCHEDULE C – FIRE RESCUE FEES

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(S.8, Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025)

SCHEDULE D – ADMINISTRATION

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(S.8, Bylaw 20958, January 01, 2025)