



FIRST RESPONDER FEE INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the First Responder Fee?

A First Responder Fee is charged to insurance companies of patients who are treated or evaluated by Amador Firefighters for medical service.

2. Why have I received a First Responder Insurance Inquiry?

You have received this inquiry because the Amador Fire District responded to a 9-1-1 call from you or someone representing you and a medical assessment was performed.

3. Do I need to pay a bill?

No, a bill will be sent directly to your insurance company. The medical insurance inquiry you have received in the mail is to collect insurance information only.

4. Do I need to pay a portion of the bill if my insurance does not cover the entire balance?

No, the District will utilize a compassionate billing concept and accept any payment made by your insurance company as the full payment for the First Responder Fee obligation.

5. What if I do not have insurance?

There is no out-of-pocket expense for patients receiving services from the Fire District, even if the patient is uninsured.

6. What are the fees based on?

The \$229 fee per call is based on cost recovery for providing an engine company to all emergency medical calls for service as well as associated fees for equipment and supplies. This amount was calculated based on a comprehensive fee study conducted by Matrix Consulting Group.

7. Don't my taxes cover this service?

The principle rationale for a First Responder Fee is that local government fire District services have expanded well beyond the traditional fire suppression generally supported by taxes. The change in balance from fire suppression to medical services has shifted the rationale for financing District operations from primarily taxes to a combination of taxes and user fees.