



Mesa Fire and Medical Department

High Risk Plus Occupancy Inspection Fee Recommendations

Audit, Finance, and Enterprise Committee

Presenter: Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Shawn Alexander

September 7, 2023

Background



- Current inspection fee program created in 2007 for high and medium risk occupancies
- Low risk occupancies were added in 2018
- In 2015, Fire Prevention began following NFPA standard 1730 which recommended inspection frequency to bring the city in line with national best practices
 - High risk occupancy (approx. 50%) – annual inspection
 - Medium risk occupancy (approx. 35%) – biannual inspection
 - Low risk occupancy (approx. 15%) – triennial inspection
- 13 Fire Inspectors performed 4,496 fire inspections in addition to other Fire Prevention-related activities in 2022.

Discussion



High Risk Plus Occupancy Inspection Fees

- The goal of the fee is to account for the actual time spent by a Mesa Fire Inspector to plan, conduct, and document each inspection.
 - The city has seen immense growth in larger buildings that require much more time for a fire inspector to conduct the annual inspection.
 - Fire Prevention has discussed the fee increases with the business community and has received no negative feedback.
 - If fees are not increased, cost recovery is diminished, shifting the burden to the General Fund.
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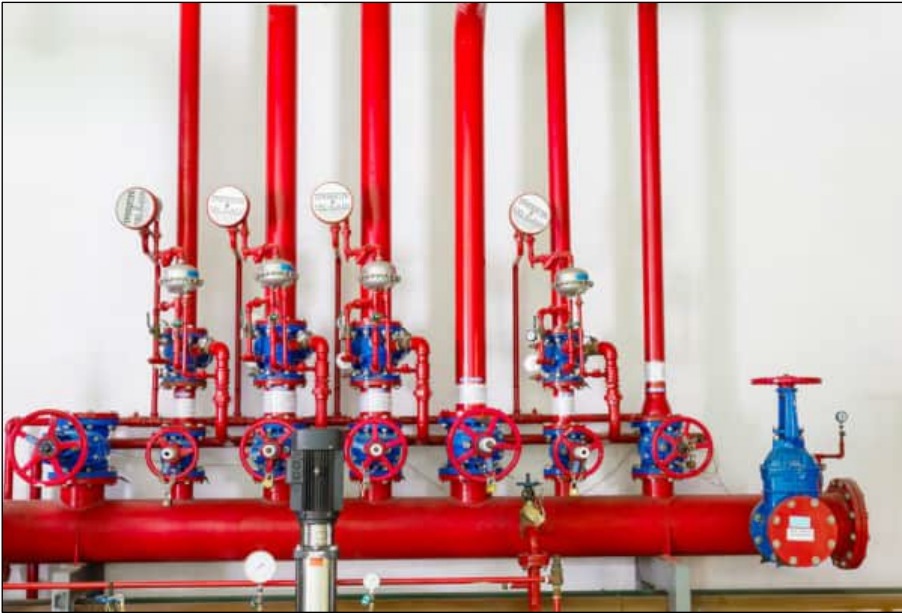
Discussion

High Risk Plus Occupancy Reinspection Fees

Current: \$50 for building reinspection

New: \$100 for $\geq 100\text{K}$ sq ft building reinspection

- The current reinspection fee is \$50 beginning with the third visit, regardless of building size.
 - Larger buildings take longer to reinspect, so increasing the fee for larger buildings will allow the department to better recover the costs of providing this service.
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Recommendation



- **New** high risk plus occupancy inspection fees for larger occupancies
 - 12,000 < 100,000 sq ft = \$459 (no change)
 - 100,000 < 300,000 sq ft = \$561 (~2 hrs of add'l insp. time)
 - 300,000 < 500,000 sq ft = \$663 (~2 hrs of add'l insp. time)
 - 500,000 < 1,000,000 sq ft = \$867 (~4 hrs of add'l insp. time)
 - $\geq 1,000,000$ sq ft = \$1275 (~8 hrs of add'l insp. time)
 - Estimated fiscal impact: \$86,300
- **New** high risk plus occupancy reinspection fee of \$100 for buildings 100,000 sq ft or greater.
 - Currently charged the standard \$50
 - Estimated fiscal impact: \$500

Total Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$86,800

Next Steps:

City Council to consider proposed fees and charges amendments on **December 4, 2023**

If approved by City Council, fee & charges adjustments are effective **January 1, 2024**



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