

Policy Change

Elimination of fees for installing dedicated fire connections (fire only taps)

In order to encourage the installation of new fire sprinkler systems in Charleston Water System’s service area, the following policy changes were approved by the Board of Commissioners on July 24, 2007 and are effective immediately:

- **Eliminate tap and impact fees for dedicated fire service connections** and no longer require new fire services to be metered.
- **Reduce the monthly charge for all (new and existing) dedicated fire services** to the inside city rates that were effective December 1, 2004. The monthly charge for a six-inch fire service would be \$22.92/month for inside *and* outside city customers (see chart below).
- **Cost of installing a fire service tap from the CWS water main to the customer’s property line:** The customer requesting the fire service will pay the actual cost to make the new tap at the point designated by Charleston Water System and install the fire service line. A CWS-approved utility contractor must be used to make the tap and install the fire service line from the main to the property line.
- **Note on dual-purpose services:** The proposed changes herein will *not* apply to businesses that now or in the future receive fire service from a dual-purpose water meter (domestic and fire water supply is provided through a single meter). Dual-purpose meters will continue to be charged the published water tap and impact fee rates as well as published monthly water rates (refer to current CWS rate schedule, not attached).
- **This policy will be prospective** and will apply to future projects as well as projects already submitted to Charleston Water System for review. Projects that were previously approved for construction by CWS but that have not yet notified CWS of construction initiation will be eligible for a refund for fire service tap and impact fees. Refund requests must be submitted in writing before January 1, 2008 to qualify. No other refunds will be considered.
- **In summary, there will be no up-front fees charged by Charleston Water System to install a dedicated fire service connection.** The customer will incur the cost of using a CWS-approved contractor to make the tap and install the fire service line from the tap at the water main to the property line. The customer will pay the published monthly fire protection charge listed below.

RATE SCHEDULE FOR PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION		
Inside & Outside City Rates, Effective July 24, 2007		
Private Fire Connection Tap Size	Initial Connection Fee	Monthly Charge
4 Inch (or less) Fire Service	\$0.00	\$7.75
6 Inch Fire Service	\$0.00	\$22.92
8 Inch Fire Service	\$0.00	\$48.75
10 Inch Fire Service	\$0.00	\$87.58
12 Inch Fire Service	\$0.00	\$141.67

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