



May 15, 2014

**TO:** All General Contractors; All Installers of Life Safety Systems;  
All Business Owners; Venue Management

**FROM:** Denver Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division

**SUBJECT:** **FEES - FIRE SAFETY SYSTEM RE-TESTS AND CONTRACTOR-PAID OVERTIME**

This letter is a reminder about two fees connected with the testing of fire safety systems. There is no fee increase (in fact, these fees have not increased since January 1, 2011), but we are asking for your help. With Denver's current boom in construction, we are inundated with requests for system testing. To help us serve you better, and to save yourself significant cost in fees, we respectfully ask that you read and abide by the guidelines in this memo. Both of these fees can be avoided by careful planning.

- **Fire Safety Systems Retest** - for systems (smoke alarms, fire alarms, sprinkler systems, etc.) that have failed a previous functionality/compliance test. When a fire safety system (smoke alarms, fire alarms, sprinkler systems, etc.) is installed, modified, or repaired, the National Code and Denver Fire Code require that that system be tested for functionality and compliance with local and national ordinances in the presence of a Fire Prevention inspector. A significant number of systems fail this test, for any number of reasons. The installation contractor or the general contractor then schedules a re-test. The fee is \$300 for the first retest and \$500 for each subsequent retest. (There is no change for initial acceptance testing unless you need to schedule the testing for a time outside normal business hours.)
  - In many cases, we find that, due to pressures to move the project forward, the contractor has not pre-tested the system; in other words, contractors are using the first City test as their pre-test. Please perform your own pre-test; this helps us serve all our customers better and saves you from having to pay a retest fee.
  - Some contractors, in a rush to meet their occupancy deadline, schedule a test for which they may or may not actually be ready. If it turns out they're not ready, they call us at the last minute and cancel that test. This is not only wasteful of the inspectors' time but prevents our inspectors from serving someone who *is* ready. Tests canceled with less than 48 hours' notice are subject to the re-inspection rate when the test is actually scheduled and a reschedule fee of \$500. To save our time and your money, please schedule tests only when you know you will be ready for them.
- **Contractor-paid Overtime / Standby Personnel** - for fire safety system inspections or fire safety systems acceptance testing that the contractor has requested be conducted outside normal business hours. The hourly fee is \$80. In accordance with Denver Fire Code Section 106.2.9, this fee also applies to standby personnel. We offer this option as a service for those occasions when workday testing just isn't possible.

But again—to save us time and save you money—we encourage you to schedule your tests within normal business hours.

Both of these fees can be avoided by a contractor’s diligent preparation in the form of pre-testing systems and scheduling all inspections and testing during normal business hours.

Also falling under the category of contractor-paid overtime is the reimbursement that results when Denver Firefighters are assigned to perform fire watch duties at a property where the required fire protection systems are not functioning or serious safety violations exist, per Denver Fire Code Section 106.2.9. This latter situation does not occur often and can be avoided through appropriate maintenance as required by national and local ordinance. Contractor-paid overtime also applies when Fire Prevention personnel are assigned to assembly occupancy venues.

For all types of contractor-paid overtime, the hourly fee is \$80, an amount designed to cover City costs. This fee is reviewed every two years to assess the cost recovery.

<b>Number of Inspectors</b>	<b>1 Hour</b>	<b>2 Hours</b>	<b>3 Hours</b>	<b>4 Hours</b>	<b>5 Hours</b>	<b>6 Hours</b>	<b>7 Hours</b>	<b>8 Hours</b>
One	\$ 80	\$160	\$240	\$320	\$400	\$480	\$560	\$640
Two	\$160	\$320	\$480	\$640	\$800	\$960	\$1120	\$1280
Three	\$240	\$480	\$720	\$960	\$1200	\$1440	\$1680	\$1920
Four	\$320	\$640	\$960	\$1280	\$1600	\$1920	\$2240	\$2560

Note:

1. Three (3-) hour minimum per employee Monday-Friday
2. Four (4-) hour minimum per employee holidays and weekends
3. Minimum number of employees per inspection or test is two (2)
4. Tent, fireworks, CO monitoring - requires one employee (more as needed)

Since re-test fees and contractor-paid overtime fees can be avoided by a contractor’s diligent preparation and scheduling of all inspections and testing during normal business hours, and the need for fire watch services can be avoided by diligent property maintenance, the need for these services should be minimal. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Thank you.