

## How is the cost of the Ambulance Service Fee determined?

In response to recently revised insurance regulations, Medicare, along with participating hospitals, insurance providers, and emergency physicians, published a fee schedule in the Federal Register in February 2002. This fee structure was the result of a mandate outlined in the Federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Total cost of ambulance services rendered will depend on the level of service provided appropriate to the person's needs, as judged necessary by the paramedics on the scene in consultation with a nearby hospital's emergency room physician. Individual fees for materials or services rendered during an ambulance call will be itemized and provided to the insurance company along with the invoice.

The City of Des Plaines' consultant has determined that the City's ambulance fees are comparable to those of other communities in the northern Illinois region.

## What other municipalities assess Ambulance Service Fees?

Many Chicagoland suburbs including Evanston, Glencoe, Park Ridge, Highland Park, Niles, Northbrook, Prospect Heights, Skokie, Wilmette and Winnetka have an Ambulance Service Fee in place.

Communities have realized the value of assessing this user fee as a means of raising funds to defray the costs of providing the highest quality emergency medical care to you and your family.

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY...  
DON'T HESITATE  
DIAL 9-1-1**

What if I have additional Questions?

Call 773-233-5587 or

e-mail questions to the City of Des Plaines

at

[www.desplaines.org](http://www.desplaines.org)

**Des Plaines:  
Providing Quality  
Emergency Medical  
Services Since the 1950s**

# Understanding Ambulance Service Fees



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DIAL 9-1-1**

## JUST THE FACTS...

### What are the costs & who is affected?

- Since 1995 the City of Des Plaines has been charging non-residents a fee for Fire Department ambulance services.
- Recently Ordinance M-12-07 was passed establishing a fee of \$400 for resident basic life support (BLS) ambulance service calls and \$450 for non-resident (BLS) calls. **These fees only apply to persons being transported by the Des Plaines Fire Department to a hospital.**
- Advanced life support (ALS) ambulance service fee calls, those requiring more extensive emergency care, are \$500 for residents and \$550 for non-residents. Along with ambulance transport fees, the following itemized expenses may be applied if **applicable\*** to the emergency response:

Mileage	\$10*
Oxygen	\$50*
EKG	\$50*
IV	\$50*
Immobilization	\$100*

These charges, which will be collected by Medical Reimbursement, Inc., the City's billing service, will begin as of May 15, 2007.

- Most insurance companies (Medicare and Non-Medicare providers) have agreed to pay out benefits on behalf of their customers in order to cover the cost of pre-hospital emergency medical care (ambulance service).

### Why?

An ambulance transportation fee is established to defray a portion of the costs involved with the transportation of persons by a Des Plaines Fire Department ambulance.

Ambulance transportation fees will apply to residents and non-residents alike.

### What?

#### What does the Ambulance Service Fee mean to me?

*Remember, never hesitate to Dial 9-1-1 if you are in an emergency situation.*

After you have received ambulance service, Medical Reimbursement, Inc. will contact you to obtain specific insurance information.

Your insurance carrier (or Medicare if applicable) will be invoiced for the ambulance service (referred to as an Ambulance Service Fee). You will receive an Explanation of Benefits (E.O.B.)

from your insurance company explaining the portion of the Ambulance Service Fee that they will pay.

The portion of the Ambulance Service Fee the insurance provider will pay is considered a usual and customary cost for providing pre-hospital care. Any portion of the fee in excess of the usual and customary cost paid by your insurance carrier will be considered a co-payment amount.

#### What if I don't have health insurance?

*We encourage residents to always call 9-1-1 for emergency help.*

Residents who do not benefit from privately held health care insurance, and do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid, will be assessed the Ambulance Service Fee as per the ordinance.

Please call 773-233-5587 with individual insurance concerns about payment if you do not have insurance, Medicare or Medicaid.