I Fees for Fire Safety Inspections

A. This fee schedule has been adopted by County Council Resolution No. 2016-2016 pursuant to the authority set forth in Title 17, Subtitle 1 of the Howard County Code and the State of Maryland Fire Prevention Code (C.O.M.A.R. Title 29, Subtitle 06, Chapter 4).

B. This schedule will be used to calculate the fee to be paid for a fire safety inspection conducted by the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services. Specific testing of certain specialized fire protection systems and equipment may be required by qualified maintenance personnel or a contractor at the owner’s expense.

C. The following fees will be applied upon the occupancy classification for the building as defined and classified by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code. In the case of mixed occupancies when it is impractical to distinguish the individual occupancy classifications, the occupancy classification is based on the predominant use and occupancy of the building structure. USE SECTION 3.3.190 WHEN DETERMINING THE OCCUPANCY TYPE.

1) Assembly Occupancies
   a) 1,001 or more individuals $300.00
   b) 301 to 1,000 individuals $200.00
   c) 50 to 300 individuals $100.00
   d) Fairgrounds for properties with:
      i) Nine buildings or less $200.00
      ii) Ten buildings or more $400.00

2) Educational Occupancy
   a) Elementary schools $100.00
      (includes kindergarten and pre-kindergarten facilities)
   b) Middle or Junior High Schools $150.00
   c) Senior High Schools $150.00
   d) Family or Group Daycare Homes
      i) Initial Inspection $75.00
      ii) Renewal Inspection $50.00
   e) Nursery or Daycare Centers $100.00

3) Health Care Occupancy
   a) Ambulatory Health Care Centers $150.00 (Per 3,000 sq. ft. or fraction of 3,000 sq. ft)
   b) Hospitals, Nursing Homes and limited care facilities $100.00 per bldg., plus $2.00 per bed

4) Detention and Correctional Occupancy
   $100.00 per bldg., plus $2.00 per rated bed

5) Residential Occupancy
   a) Hotel and Motel $75.00 per bldg., plus $2.00 per guest room/suite
   b) Dormitory $75.00 per bldg., plus $2.00 per bed
   c) Apartment $75.00 per bldg., plus $2.00 per apartment
   d) Lodging or Rooming House $75.00 per bldg., plus $2.00 per bed
   e) One & Two Family Dwelling $75.00
      Including alternative living units and Foster Care
   f) Board & Care Homes $100.00 per bldg., plus $2.00 per bed
6) **Mercantile Occupancy**
   a) Class A – over 30,000 sq. feet
   b) Class B – 3,000 to 30,000 sq. feet
   c) Class C – less than 3,000 sq. feet

7) **Business Occupancy**
   Per 3,000 sq. feet or fraction of 3,000 sq. feet
   $75.00

8) **Industrial or Storage Occupancy**
   a) Low or Ordinary Hazard
   b) High Hazard
   $75.00 (Per 5,000 sq. feet or fraction of 5,000)
   $100.00 (Per 5,000 sq. feet or fraction of 5,000)

9) **Manufactured Home Site and Communities**
   $75.00 per facility, plus $2.00 per site

10) **Campgrounds**
    a) Vehicular
    $75.00 per facility, plus $2.00 per campsite
    b) With Sleeping Accommodations
    $150.00 per facility, plus $2.00 per bed
    c) Without Sleeping Accommodations
    $75.00 per facility

11) **Outside storage of combustible materials**
    (Ex: scrap tire, lumber, mulch, tree stumps, etc.)
    $50.00 (Per acre or fraction of an acre)

12) **Outside storage of flammable or combustible liquids/gases**
    (Ex: drums or tanks)
    $100.00 (Per 5,000 sq. feet or fraction of 5,000 sq. feet)

13) **Marinas and Piers**
    $100.00, plus $1.00 per slip

14) **MOBILE FOOD**
    ANNUAL FEE $75
    ONE DAY FEE $45
    RE-INSPECTION $45

15) **HAZMAT INSPECTIONS**
    TYPE I- $1,000.00 ANNUALLY
    TYPE II- $400.00 ANNUALLY
    TYPE III- $250.00 ANNUALLY
    TYPE IV- $100.00 ANNUALLY
    TYPE V- $100.00 ANNUALLY

IF YOU HAVE A SEASONAL POOL THAT IS OPEN NO MORE THAN 120 CONSECUTIVE DAYS, YOUR FEES WOULD BE 50% OF THE PERMIT FEE.

**PERMIT LATE FEES**
- 30 DAYS BEYOND THE FILING DATE WILL BE ASSESSED A 10% LATE FEE PLUS THE ORIGINAL PERMIT FEE.
- 60 DAYS BEYOND THE FILING DATE WILL BE ASSESSED A 20% LATE FEE PLUS THE ORIGINAL PERMIT FEE.
- 90 DAYS BEYOND THE FILING DATE WILL BE ASSESSED A 50% LATE FEE PLUS THE ORIGINAL PERMIT FEE.
- 180 DAYS BEYOND THE FILING DATE WILL BE ASSESSED A 100% LATE FEE PLUS THE ORIGINAL PERMIT FEE.

16) **TIRES**
    TIER 1- $500.00 ANNUALLY
    TIER 2- $325.00 ANNUALLY
PERMIT LATE FEES

- 30 DAYS BEYOND THE FILING DATE WILL BE ASSESSED A 10% LATE FEE PLUS THE ORIGINAL PERMIT FEE.
- 60 DAYS BEYOND THE FILING DATE WILL BE ASSESSED A 20% LATE FEE PLUS THE ORIGINAL PERMIT FEE.
- 90 DAYS BEYOND THE FILING DATE WILL BE ASSESSED A 50% LATE FEE PLUS THE ORIGINAL PERMIT FEE.
- 180 days beyond the filing date will be assessed a 100% late fee plus the original permit fee.

17) CONTRACTOR PORTAL $5/PER REPORT SUBMITTED

D. A re-inspection fee of $150.00 applies if more than one inspection is required to correct a previously identified fire code violation.

II Fees for Technical Assistance, Unclassified Inspections, and Special Events

A. The fee schedule below shall be used to calculate the fee for Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services to provide technical assistance or unclassified inspections, to include special events, in the form of plan review or on-site inspections.

B. A separate technical assistance fee shall be charged at the following rate and prorated to the nearest ½ hour:
   1) Deputy Fire Marshal or Fire Safety Inspector $75.00 per hour
   2) Fire Protection Engineer $100.00 per hour

C. Travel time to and from a meeting or inspection site shall be included when computing the fee.

D. When requested, a reasonable time to prepare written reports or research subsequent code related issues shall be included when computing fees.

E. The fee shall be charged to the person officially requesting assistance and shall be payable upon receipt of an itemized invoice submitted in accordance with administrative procedures established by fire authorities.

F. Failure to pay the fee within the required time shall result in appropriate administrative or legal action. Further plan review or inspection action may not take place until the fee is paid in full. This may result in a delay of the issuance of a building permit, or use and occupancy permit for the building or facility.

III Fee Payment for Fire Safety Inspections

A. Fees for fire safety inspections are payable upon receipt of an invoice from the Howard County Department of Finance upon completion of the inspection. Failure to pay this fee within the specified time may result in:
   a) Administrative or legal action;
   b) No further inspection activity;
   c) Denial of the issuance or renewal of a permit or license held by the facility being inspected;

B. The fire safety inspection fee may not be charged if the inspection is conducted in response to a specific complaint regarding an alleged violation of the Howard County Fire Prevention Code.

C. Payment Method
a) Fee payments shall be in the form of a check or money order payable to the Howard County Director of Finance.
b) Cash payment is not acceptable.

IV Disposition of Fees

A. Fees collected by the Howard County Department of Finance for inspections shall be deposited in the fire tax fund of the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services.

B. Fees shall be collected and processed in accordance with fiscal procedures established by the Howard County Department of Finance for the collection, disbursement, and accounting of funds.