



Orting Valley Fire and Rescue

Pierce County Fire District 18

401 Washington Ave SE

PO Box 386 Orting, WA 98360

Phone: (360) 893-2221 Fax: (360) 893-8524

January 2024

This is not a bill

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of your portion of the 2024 Fire Benefit Charge that will be collected with your 2024 Property Tax. You will find the Fire Benefit Charge listed under the "Special" category on your property tax statement.

Dear Orting Valley Property Owner:

The Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) is an alternative method of securing operation funds for the provision of fire and emergency medical services. The FBC was approved by District voters in 2021 by over a 65% margin. The FBC replaced the Maintenance & Operations levy as well as \$0.50 per thousand of the fire levy. The FBC allowed the district to add much needed staff for additional response units. Under State Law the FBC may be applied by the Fire Commissioners to cover up to 60% of the annual operation budget of the district. In 2024 the FBC will cover 39% of the budget. The FBC must be approved by District voters every 6 years.

The Board of Fire Commissioners for Orting Valley Fire and Rescue unanimously approved no change to the 2024 FBC from 2023. What does this mean? It means you will pay the same amount for your FBC in 2024 as you did in 2023. In addition to keeping the FBC the same in 2024, we are also excited about our ability to participate in the regional collaboration that is occurring between the Pierce County Fire Agencies. This collaboration is driving out duplication, creating efficiencies, and improving service while allowing us to keep costs as low as possible.

The FBC is combined with a flat fire tax rate not to exceed \$1 per thousand (was \$1.50 per thousand) and the \$0.50 EMS levy to fund fire and EMS services. Unlike property taxes, the FBC is based on total square footage of buildings, garages, barns, stables, etc. on the property as well as the intended use of the property. Consequently, the owner of a commercial building of like square footage would pay more than a residential homeowner.

All of us at Orting Valley Fire and Rescue understand the impact inflation is having on our community and we are proud that we can provide better service without having to raise the FBC. We will continue to strive to be good stewards of your tax dollars. We will work diligently to focus on exceeding our citizens expectations and providing exceptional service while being mindful of managing costs and remaining within our approved budget. We appreciate your support and will continue to serve you with kindness and professionalism.

Jason Bellerive, Commission Chair

Kevin Gorder, Commission Vice Chair

Arlene Dannat, Commissioner

Margaret O'Harra Buttz, Commissioner

Joe Palombi, Commissioner

Annual Fire Benefit Charge Important Notice - Do not Discard

As required by Washington state law, OVFR provides a process that allows property owners to appeal fire benefit charges they believe are incorrect or invalid. Forms for requesting an appeal are available at info@ovfr.org or call 360-893-2221 and we can have one mailed to you.

Benefit charge appeals must be received by OVFR no later than 5:00pm on February 23, 2024. A hearing will be held on all appeal requests received by the deadline at 6:30pm on Tuesday March 12, 2024.

Parcel#
Square Feet:
Benefit Charge
Fire Protection Sprinkler Discount (Y: N)