Norman Fire Department

Emergency Incident Cost Recovery

Fire Recovery USA

- Fire Recovery USA helps fire departments recover cost from emergency responses.
- Interfaces with commonly used Records Management Systems to transfer data from NERIS.
- Funding alternative with no up-front charge to the department.
- FEMA published an update to their Funding Alternatives for Emergency Medical and Fire services confirming most cities have the authority to impose direct charges. (FA-331/ April 2012)
- Currently used by some Oklahoma Fire Departments

Types of Incidents that can be Billed

- Motor Vehicle Incidents
- HAZMAT
- FIRES
- Water Incidents
- Special Rescue

Commonly Billed Incidents

1. Motor Vehicle Incidents-this category is the most common and varies by location and department type (Volunteer vs. Paid). Insurance companies insist that the “at fault” party’s insurer pays.
2. HAZMAT-next most commonly used category for billing, again most of the time insurance carrier receives the bill. Varies by state and organization if these incidents get billed.
3. FIRES-common for volunteer departments but not taxpayer funded career departments. However, illegal burns and out of control approved control burns is an option for billing.
4. Water Incidents-very low frequency and limited data.

Mitigation Rates-Motor Vehicle Incidents

EXHIBIT A - MITIGATION RATES BASED ON PER HOUR

- The mitigation rates below are average "billing levels", and are typical for the incident responses listed, however, when a claim is submitted, it may be itemized and based on the actual services provided.
- These rates are based on actual costs using amortized schedules for apparatus (including useful life, equipment, repairs, and maintenance). Labor rates include an average department's actual burdened labor costs and not just a firefighter's wage. These include wages, retirement, benefits, workers comp, etc.

MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS

- **Level 1 - $637.00**
- Provide hazardous materials assessment and scene stabilization. This will be the most common "billing level". This occurs almost every time the fire department responds to an accident/incident.

Mitigations Rates

- **Level 2 - $726.00**
- Includes Level 1 services as well as clean up and material used (sorbents) for hazardous fluid clean up and disposal. We will bill at this level if the fire department has to clean up any gasoline or other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of the accident/incident.
- **Level 3 – CAR FIRE - $886.00**
- Provide scene safety, fire suppression, breathing air, rescue tools, hand tools, hose, tip use, foam, structure protection, and clean up gasoline or other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of the accident/incident.

ADD-ON SERVICES:

- **Extrication - $1,915.00**
- Includes heavy rescue tools, ropes, airbags, cribbing etc. This charge will be added if the fire department has to free/remove anyone from the vehicle(s) using any equipment. We will not bill at this level if the

Mitigation Rates

- **Creating a Landing Zone - $584.00**
- Includes Air Care (multi-engine company response, mutual aid, helicopter). We will bill at this level any time a helicopter landing zone is created and/or is utilized to transport the patient(s).
- **Itemized Response:** You have the option to bill each incident as an independent event with custom mitigation rates, for each incident using, itemized rates deemed usual, customary and reasonable (UCR). These incidents will be billed, itemized per apparatus, per personnel, plus products and equipment used.

Mitigation Rates- HAZMAT

Level 1 - $1,029.00

- **Basic Response:** Claim will include engine response, first responder assignment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, set-up and command.

Level 2 - $3,673.00

- **Intermediate Response:** Claim will include engine response, first responder assignment, hazmat certified team and appropriate equipment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, set-up and command, Level A or B suit donning, breathing air and detection equipment. Set-up and removal of decon center.

Level 3 – $8,673.00

- **Advanced Response:** Claim will include engine response, first responder assignment, hazmat certified team and appropriate equipment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, first responder set-up and command, Level A or B suit donning, breathing air and detection equipment and robot deployment. Set-up and removal of decon center, detection equipment, recovery and identification of material. Disposal and environment clean up. Includes above in addition to any disposal rates of material and contaminated equipment and material used at scene. Includes 3 hours of on scene time - **each**

Incident Recovery Forecast

Fire Recovery USA
Fire Billing Solutions

Emergency Incident Recovery Forecast

While we cannot make guarantees for cost recovery, the following is an estimated forecast.

NORMAN FIRE DEPARTMENT (OK)

Items	*Incidents per Year*	*Percent Collected*		*Amt. Billed*		*Totals*
MVA (with fluids on ground)	284	90%	@	$687	=	$175,597
MVA (no fluids on ground)	284	30%	@	$687	=	$58,532
Vehicle Fires	0	20%	@	$605	=	$0
Landing Zones	0	60%	@	$2,100	=	$0
Fires	0	60%	@	$500	=	$0
Hazardous Conditions	0	60%	@	$700	=	$0
Special Rescue	0	60%	@	$500	=	$0
SUBTOTAL COLLECTED						**$234,130**

TOTAL RETURNED TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT (per year)	**$182,621**

This forecast is only accurate if you bill all of these runs.

** Emergency Incident Billing typically takes up to two years for a full forecast ramp up, therefore be advised Year 1 revenue may be as much as 50% lower than the ongoing revenues. Average payment from run submission takes approximately 95 days*

** This forecast is highly dependent on the client providing adequate billing data to enable us to meet our normal collection rates. This will be reinforced during training.*

Based on Data from:	2026
Forecast Prepared on:	6/3/2026

- Fire Recovery USA is compensated by taking 20% of the revenue generated.
- Projections could be more or less based on actual numbers, and the scope of what emergency incidents are billed.
- Guthrie FD total call volume is approximately 5,000 total calls with 20-30 thousand dollars generated from auto incident billing.
- Up to 2 years for full realized gain.

Implementation

- Adoption of City Ordinance, Fire Recovery USA has drafted this document and is available for review.

- Determine the scope and extent of recovery billing
  - Are there instances where billing does not occur due to conflicting policy?
  - Uninsured vs. insured- discriminatory billing issues.
  - "No Fault" accidents- (person hits a deer)
  - Hazardous Materials Responses associated with automotive incidents vs. a hazardous materials response without a car wreck.

Implementation

- Determine the destination of the revenue generated?
  - Return to Fire Department to support positions or programs vs general fund?
  - <u>This program will require additional work hours and oversight</u>, currently the staffing isn't able to absorb additional administrative duties.
  - Emergency Incident Billing typically takes up to 2 years for full forecast ramp up.

Implementation

- Enter into service agreement for services provided.
- Policy/ Guideline development for Fire Department.
- Integration with current Records Management System.
- Oversight, records management.
- Departmental training
  - Officer level – will require extra documentation
  - Quality Control- System administration
  - Addition of module to Emergency Networking for documentation.

Possible Outcomes

- Becomes an unrealized revenue source.
- Becomes an ancillary support mechanism for Hazardous Materials Special Operations or other Fire Department budgetary needs
- Could be publicly perceived negatively and affect stakeholder/customer relationships. Has been controversial for taxpayer funded departments.
- Unforeseen unintended consequences?
- The billing can be expanded to illegal burns or controlled burns that become uncontrolled burns and require a fire department response.

Summary

Fire Recovery USA is a 3rd party billing service for fire departments. Their software is interoperable with most record keeping management systems allowing data transfer within the two systems. When a client is "onboarded" there is a questionnaire to help determine the scope of services billed. When Fire Recovery gets paid, a payment is submitted to CON. There are customizable options when setting up billing. With any software or new system, there are learning curves and extra work during the implementation process and continued oversight/management. The trend for billing for