

San José Fire Department

The San José Fire Department's core mission is to serve the community by protecting life, property and the environment through prevention and response.



San José City Council

Fire Department Emergency Medical Services First Responder Fee Program
March 25, 2025

Presented by:

Robert Sapient, Jr., Fire Chief, Fire Department

Steve Boughey, Deputy Fire Chief, Bureau of EMS and Training

Evolution of Fire and Rescue Services



San José Fire Department "All Hazards" Response

Fire Suppression & Rescue

- Fire (wildland, high-rise, residential, commercial, etc.)
- Rescue (vehicle extrication, water, confined space, high angle, etc.)
- Multi-Casualty (transportation, active assailant, etc.)



Emergency Medical Services

- First Aid "Resuscitator Calls"
- Basic Life Support / Emergency Medical Technician (EMT Certification created in 1970)
- Advanced Life Support / Paramedics (1995)

Evolution of Fire and Rescue Services



San José Fire Department "All Hazards" Response

Emergency Medical Services 1995-2000

- First Aid "Resuscitator Calls"
- Basic Life Support / Emergency Medical Technician (EMT Certification created in 1970)
- Advanced Life Support / Paramedics (1995)



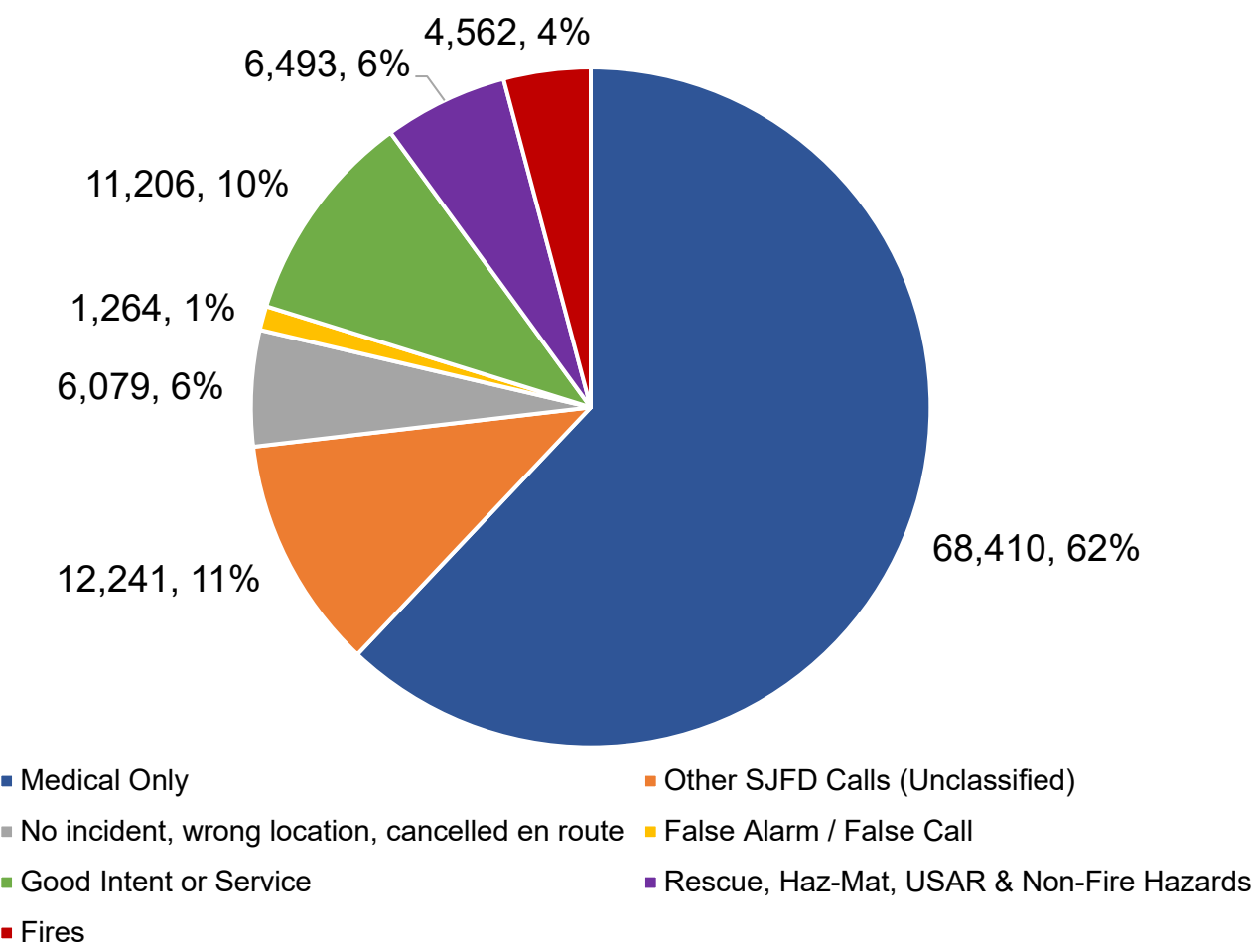
Emergency Medical Services 2000-Present

- Field 12 Lead Acquisition
- Advanced pharmacology
- Advanced Life Support Interventions
- Lucas Devices
- "Community Paramedicine"

Evolution of Fire and Rescue Services



San José Fire Department Incident Type Distribution



California Lawful Billing Legislations



- **California Constitution, Article XI, Section 7:** Grants charter cities the authority to have “police powers” to create and enforce local ordinances and regulations, such as police, sanitary, and medical response, so long as they do not conflict with general laws.
- **California Health & Safety Code Section 13916(a):** Jurisdictions are permitted to charge a fee to cover the cost of any provided service or enforcing any regulation for which the fee is charged.
- **Proposition 26 amended California Constitution, Article 13A, Section 3(b)(2):** Allows for a fee to be imposed for a specific government service provided directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged and does not exceed reasonable costs for providing the service. Examples include user fees for utilities, public records copying fees, emergency medical care and ambulance transport service fees, recreation classes, and transit fees to name a few.

California Fire Agency Fee Comparisons



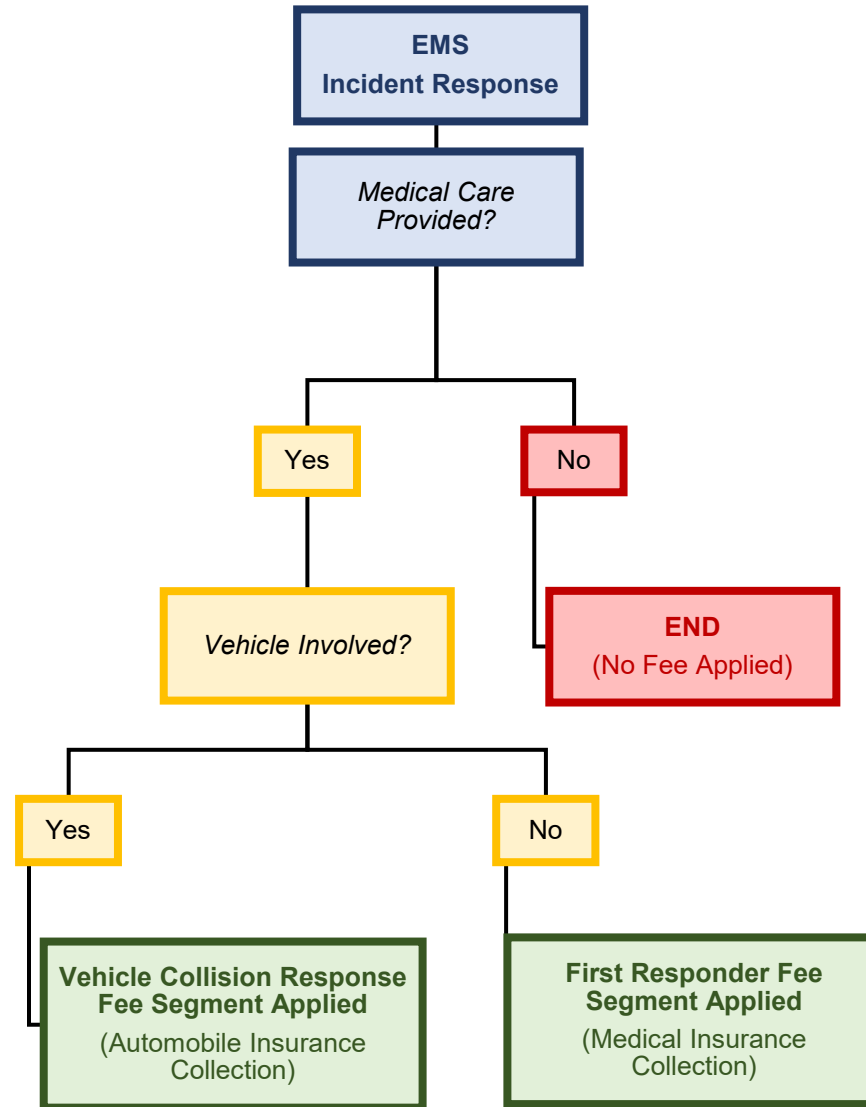
Agency	Population	Fee	First Responder Fee	Vehicle Collision Response Fee
Folsom Fire Department	84,782	\$225	Y	
Long Beach Fire Department	449,468	\$250	Y	
Sacramento Fire Department	526,384	\$321	Y	
Napa Fire Department	77,492	\$338	Y	
Roseville Fire Department	159,135	\$386	Y	
Alameda Fire Department	78,614	\$393	Y	Y
Proposed: San José Fire Department	969,655	\$427	Y	Y
Anaheim Fire and Rescue Department	347,000	\$439	Y	Y
Vallejo Fire Department	122,807	\$561	Y	
San Francisco Fire Department	843,071	\$567	Y	

Fee Calculation and Estimated Revenues



Fee Types	Payer	Qty. of EMS Responses	Billing Rate	Potential Annual Revenue	Anticipated Collection Rate	Estimated Annual Revenue
First Responder Fee	Commercial Medical Insurance	7,725	\$427	\$3,298,575	80%	\$2,638,864
	Private Pay	6,695	\$427	\$2,858,765	3%	\$85,763
Vehicle Collision Response Fee	Commercial Automobile Insurance	3,968	\$427	\$1,694,339	80%	\$1,355,471
Estimated Projected Annual Revenue						\$4,080,098
Year One Prorated Starting January 1, 2026						\$2,040,049

Fee Administration Process Flow Map



Compassionate Billing



- **Financial Hardship Criteria**
- **Charity Care Policies**
- **Transparency Requirements**
- **Prohibition of Discriminatory Practices**
- **Patient Rights and Protections**



Next Steps and Closing



Action Item	Completion Timeframe
Communications Plan (Phase 1): Public Announcement and Information Dissemination	March – April 2025
City Council Approval: FY 2025-2026 Operating Budget and Fees and Charges	June 2025
City Council Approval: Medical Emergency First Responder Services and Fee Collection Ordinance	June 2025
First Responder Fee Program Effective	July 2025
Communications Plan (Phase 2): Community Education and Internal Training	July – October 2025
Communications Plan (Phase 3): Final Preparations	December 2025
First Responder Fee Program Implementation (First Responder Fee & Vehicle Collision Response Fee)	January 2026
Communications Plan (Phase 4): Implementation of First Responder Fee Program	January 2026

Questions?

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