



THIS IS NOT A BILL

The **purpose** of this letter is to **notify you of your portion** of the **2009 Fire Benefit Charge** that will be collected with your 2009 Property Tax.

To Our Fellow Property Owners:

Washington State law grants Fire Districts the authority to use a Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) as a source of operating funds. Earlier this year voters approved the FBC as an alternative method of funding. We, your Fire Commissioners, have set the Fire Benefit Charge at approximately \$65,000 to be collected in 2009. We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for voting for the Fire Benefit Charge.

Your FBC will appear on your tax statement as a special levy or fee. Any additional charges in the "Other" category are not related to the fire department. Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue (SPFR) receives revenue from both the tax levy and the FBC. By utilizing the FBC along with the levy tax dollars, SPFR is able to operate in a fiscally efficient manner. The amount of the FBC is calculated by evaluating the risks and emergency services needs for certain types of structures. Specifically, it is designed to charge only the owners of commercial and larger, multi-family, structures which includes condominium unit owners. On the back of this letter is an explanation of the FBC formula and a section which explains how the amount of the charge is computed for each property.

It is a valuable tool which allows:

- the flexibility to collect only what is needed each year
- a fairer distribution of cost to benefit, i.e., commercial & larger structures
- for relief to those with open spaces as the Fire Benefit Charge applies only to structures
- allows for the charging of fees to structures that have been exempt in the past such as those on government owned land
- an appeal process at the local level

Pursuant to RCW 52.18.70, the Board of Fire Commissioners may reduce or adjust an FBC which has been appealed. The appeal form is provided on our website and is available at the fire station. Appeals must be received by February 6, 2009, to be considered by the Board. Failure to provide an appeal during this time frame will relinquish any appeal rights you may have under RCW 52.18.070 for the year in which the charges are imposed.

If you have any questions about the FBC, as applied to your property, please visit the District's website: www.snoqualmiepassfire.org. If you do not have access to the Internet, or are unable to find the answer to your question on our web page, please contact SPFR administration at (425) 434-6333. If you have any questions or comments about your fire and emergency medical services, e-mail the Fire Chief at mhcowan@hotmail.com or the Chairman of our Board of Commissioners at chris.caviezel@gmail.com.

The members of Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue are your response team for fire, emergency medical and life safety needs. The Commissioners are proud to be part of your community and thank you for your continued support of quality service. Sincerely, the Commissioners

Chris Caviezel

William Powers

Pat Ellis

BENEFIT CHARGE EXPLANATION (This is NOT a bill)

State law authorized Fire Districts in the State, with the approval of voters in the District, to assess a Benefit Charge as a supplemental means of financing the services provided by the Fire District.

The Benefit Charge is uniformly applied to all real property, specifically commercial and larger multi-family structures. The Benefit Charge formula is based upon the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) formula for fire flow. To this we apply a Category Factor and a Fire Flow Benefit Factor to calculate the Fire Benefit Charge for each parcel of property. The Fire Flow Benefit Factor is set by the Fire Commissioners.

Formula:

$$\text{Square Root of the Square Feet} \times 18 \times \text{Category Factor} \times \text{Fire Flow Benefit Factor} = \text{Fire Benefit Charge}$$

Category Factor Chart	
Single Family Residence = 0	Commercial Structure < 4,000 Sq Ft = 6
Multi-Family Residence = 0	Commercial Structure < 10,000 Sq Ft = 7
Multi-Family Residence > 2 Stories = 4	Commercial Structure < 20,000 Sq Ft = 8
Commercial Structure < 1,000 Sq Ft = 4	Commercial Structure < 50,000 Sq Ft = 9
Commercial Structure < 2,000 Sq Ft = 5	Commercial Structure >= 50,000 Sq Ft = 10
Commercial > 2 Stories (multiply 2 x the listed category factor)	

Fire Flow Benefit Factor



SPFR
PO Box 99
Snoqualmie Pass, WA 98068

Please contact Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue as provided on this letter for further information or assistance.

Parcel Number:	2009 FBC Charge: \$
Square Feet:	Property Use:

If you feel that the Fire Benefit Charge for this parcel is in error, you may appeal. Appeal forms may be obtained from the Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue, PO Box 99, Snoqualmie Pass, WA 98068 or by visiting our web page at www.snoqualmiepassfire.org. You may mail or fax your form to us. Fax #: (425) 434-6355. Appeal forms must be returned to the Fire District by 5:00 P.M. on February 6, 2009 (even if you attend an appeal hearing later). You do not need to be present at an appeal hearing for appeal consideration. The appeal hearing will be held on February 23, 2009. You may be present at the hearing to give oral comments regarding your appeal. The meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. at Station 291.

NOTE: Square footage figures and property use are based upon data supplied by the Kittitas County Assessor's Office, the King County Assessor's Office, or by physical inspection. Garages are included in these figures. If using King County data for comparison you must add the garage space to total living space for an accurate comparison.