



MEDIA RELEASE

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Fire Inspection Fee Changes Take Effect July 1, 2018; More Equitable for Lakeland Area Businesses

Lakeland, FL – The Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) is establishing a new fee structure for the routine fire inspections that its Prevention Division performs to maintain fire and life safety in the City of Lakeland. The new fee structure comes as a result of a newly adopted resolution, passed by the City of Lakeland Commission in a unanimous vote on June 4, 2018. It will result in lower fees for a significant amount of Lakeland area businesses, as it will be based on square footage versus occupancy type. The previous fees were based on occupancy type, so small businesses were paying the same as a large one, regardless of the amount of square footage that was being inspected.

The changes will apply to annual, biennial, and triennial inspections and will be assessed as indicated in the chart below:

0 - 4,999 sq ft	\$50
5,000 - 11,999 sq ft	\$75
12,000 - 24,999 sq ft	\$125
25,000 - 49,999 sq ft	\$150
50,000 - 74,999 sq ft	\$175
75,000 - 99,999 sq ft	\$200
100,000 - 249,999 sq ft	\$250
250,000 - 499,999 sq ft	\$300
500,000 - 749,999 sq ft	\$350
750,000 - 999,999 sq ft	\$400
1,000,000 ^ sq ft	\$450





LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

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The previous fees began at \$75. The new fee structure lowers the minimum inspection fee from \$75 to \$50 which will be a cost savings for many of the businesses within the City. The new schedule also takes into account that the City now has many facilities that are over 1,000,000 square feet in size; which take Fire Inspectors several hours to complete required inspections in. Fire inspection fees will continue to be billed on the Lakeland Electric account for the business being inspected.

Additional changes adopted in the resolution include setting the number of inspections provided with permits related to construction. This was done to avoid misuse in inspection requests, which could tax resources like a Fire Inspector's time. The last change adopted in the adopted resolution is that underground fire line permit fees were adjusted to be assessed by linear feet, rather than a blanket price. The fee will be \$300 for the first 2,000 linear feet of unground fire line installed and \$100 for each additional 2,000 linear feet.

Fire Marshal Cheryl Edwards shares "changing the fee structure to a square footage model will be more equitable to the business owners within the City. The fees assessed are intended to cover the cost of providing the fire inspections which are mandate by Florida State Statute."

The adopted resolution and more information detailing the changes, fees, and what inspections are included can be found at <http://www.lakelandgov.net/lfd> > Prevention.



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