

FIRE SPRINKLER CHARGES

Your water bill includes a quarterly sprinkler charge for your building (all commercial units within your building – ONE CHARGE) of \$150.50 (annually \$602.00). We are a private Fire District (water department) who is not governed by the Town of Barnstable. All our rates are set forth by the Barnstable Fire District Board of Water Commissioners. To help you better understand why you receive this charge I have provided the following:

What is the purpose of a Water Utility?

A Water Utility has three basic functions:

- 1) Capability to deliver water for fighting fires
- 2) Furnishing water for consumption
- 3) Furnishing water for sanitation.

What is the Fire Sprinkler Charge?

The cost of installing and maintaining the infrastructure required to supply the volume and pressure of water to for fight fires. The fee is set by the Barnstable Fire District Board of Water Commissioners for non-metered use

What costs does the Fire Sprinkler Charge specifically cover?

Although hydrants are an important part of the cost there are other expenses, such as increased sizes of water mains, increased pump capacity, and increased storage capacity (water towers); that all must be in place to supply a fire. These things must all be in place to make sure that the Utility has enough capacity to provide water for fighting fires and still supply daily water needs at the same time.