



Legislation Text

File #: 22-0205, Version: 0

**Explanation:** Capitals indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

\* **Warning:** This is an unofficial, introductory copy of the bill.  
The official copy considered by the City Council is the first reader copy.

**Introductory\***

**City of Baltimore  
Council Bill**

Introduced by: President Mosby

A Bill Entitled

An Ordinance concerning

**Vacant Structures - Emergency Response Fee**

For the purpose of establishing a fee structure for City emergency response services provided or rendered at vacant structures; defining certain terms; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to emergency response fees for vacant structures.

By adding

Article 9 - Fire Suppression and Prevention

Section(s) 7-1 through 7-2 to be under the new subtitle designation,

“Subtitle 7. Vacant Structures”

Baltimore City Code

(Edition 2000)

**Section 1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore,** That the Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

**Baltimore City Code**

**Article 9. Fire Suppression and Prevention**

**Subtitle 7. Vacant Structures**

**§ 7-1. Definitions.**

(a) *In general.*

In this subtitle, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(b) *Department.*

“Department” means the Baltimore City Fire Department.

(c) *Collateral services.*

“Collateral services” means follow-up services delivered by the Department after the initial response to an incident.

(d) *Fire investigation.*

(1) *In general.*

“Fire investigation” means the services rendered when a fire investigator or investigation team responds to an incident.

(2) *Inclusions.*

“Fire investigation” includes:

- (i) measures taken to secure the scene of the incident;
- (ii) actions taken to investigate the circumstances of the incident;
- (iii) identification of the source of the incident;
- (iv) use of a K-9 or arson dog unit;
- (v) use of equipment to identify the source of the incident;
- (vi) use of mobile detection equipment; and
- (vii) generating a fire report.

(e) *Hazardous materials incident levels.*

(1) *Level 1 hazardous materials incident response.*

“Level 1 hazardous materials incident response” means the Department’s provision of basic hazardous materials incident response services, including:

- (i) engine response;
- (ii) first responder assignment;
- (iii) perimeter establishment;
- (iv) evacuations;
- (v) set-up of service delivery; and
- (vi) command of the scene.

(2) *Level 2 hazardous materials incident response.*

“Level 2 hazardous materials incident response” means the Department’s provision of intermediate

hazardous materials incident response services, including:

- (i) the services named in paragraph (1) of this subsection;
- (ii) deployment of hazardous material- (HAZMAT) certified personnel and appropriate equipment;
- (iii) the use of:
  - (A) level A or level B protective suits;
  - (B) breathing equipment; or
  - (C) detection equipment; and
- (iv) set-up and removal of a decontamination center, if necessary.

(3) *Level 3 hazardous materials incident response.*

“Level 3 hazardous materials incident response” means the Department’s provision of advanced hazardous materials response services, including:

- (i) the services named in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection;
- (ii) robot deployment;
- (iii) detection, recovery, and identification of materials;
- (iv) disposal of materials;
- (v) environmental clean-up; and
- (vi) disposal of contaminated equipment and contaminated materials used at the scene of the incident.

(f) *Special rescue response.*

“Special rescue response” means an incident requires the Department to deliver services that are not considered:

- (1) a fire response;
- (2) a fire investigation;
- (3) a hazardous materials incident;
- (4) a water incident; or
- (5) collateral services.

(g) *Water incidents.*

(1) *Level 1 water incident response.*

“Level 1 water incident response” means the Department’s provision of basic water incident response services, including:

- (i) engine response;
- (ii) first responder assignment;
- (iii) perimeter establishment;
- (iv) evacuations;
- (v) first responder set-up and command;
- (vi) actions taken to ensure scene safety;
- (vii) investigation;
- (viii) patient contact; and
- (ix) hazard control

(2) *Level 2 water incident response.*

“Level 2 water incident response” means the Department’s provision of intermediate water incident response services, including:

- (i) the services named in paragraph (1) of this subsection;
- (ii) clean-up of the scene;
- (iii) use of materials to clean up the scene;
- (iv) minor hazardous clean-up and disposal; and
- (v) clean-up of small amounts of gasoline or other fluids spilled as a result of the incident.

(3) *Level 3 water incident response.*

“Level 3 water incident response” means the Department’s provision of advanced water incident response services, including:

- (i) the services named in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection;
- (ii) Mutual Aid Box Alarm System activation;
- (iii) use of a breathing apparatus;
- (iv) use of detection equipment;
- (v) set up and removal of a decontamination center;
- (vi) recovery and identification of material;
- (vii) disposal of material;

(viii) environmental cleanup; and

(ix) disposal of contaminated equipment and contaminated materials used at the scene.

(h) *Vacant structure.*

(1) *In general.*

“Vacant structure” means any structure that is subject to an unabated violation notice issued under § 116 {“Unsafe Structures”} of the Baltimore City Building Code.

(2) *Exclusions.*

“Vacant structure” does not include an accessory structure that is not intended for occupancy, such as a garage, shed, or storage building.

## § 7-2. Fees.

(a) Amount of fees.

An owner of a vacant structure who utilizes the emergency services of the Baltimore City Fire Department shall be charged a fee for emergency services in the following amounts:

(1) for fire response services:

(i) \$400 per hour per fire engine; and

(ii) \$500 per hour per truck;

(2) for fire investigation services, \$500 an hour;

(3) for hazardous materials incident services:

(i) \$700 an hour for a level 1 response;

(ii) \$750 an hour for a level 2 response;

(iii) \$2,780 plus disposal fees for a level 3 response; and

(iv) an additional \$750 an hour after 3 hours of response service delivery at all levels;

(4) for a hazmat technician, \$50 an hour;

(5) for a special rescue, technician fees in an amount to be decided on a case-by-case basis and to be provided in an itemized list;

(6) for water incident services:

(i) \$400 an hour for a level 1 response;

- (ii) \$800 an hour for a level 2 response;
- (iii) \$2,000 an hour for a level 3 response; and
- (iv) \$50 an hour for a technician.

(b) *Special rescue fees.*

(1) *In general.*

The Department may charge the owner of a vacant structure fees for special rescue services delivered.

(2) *Procedure.*

The Department must charge fees for special rescue services at a market rate and provide an itemized bill to the owner of the vacant structure.

(c) *Collateral services fees.*

(1) *In general.*

The Department may charge the owner of a vacant structure fees for collateral services delivered.

(2) *Procedure.*

The Department must charge fees for collateral services at a market rate and provide an itemized bill to the owner of the vacant structure.

**Section 2. And be it further ordained,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 90<sup>th</sup> day after the date it is enacted.