

Chapter 13.32

AMBULANCE UTILITY

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13.32.010 Purpose and legislative findings.

The purpose of this chapter is to confirm and establish a system of ambulance service operated by the City of Sunnyside as a public utility of the City of Sunnyside. The City Council finds and determines that the City established a public utility ambulance service system pursuant to Ordinance No. 1683 adopted October 2, 1989, as authorized by State statute codified at RCW 35.21.766 and 35.21.768. At that time the City Council found and determined that the City of Sunnyside was not adequately served by existing private ambulance service, which finding is now renewed, reiterated and republished. Furthermore, the City Council finds and determines that the City of Sunnyside is not now and has not been since the original establishment of the ambulance utility operated by the City adequately served by any existing private ambulance service. The City Council declares its intent and purpose to confirm and ratify the existing City-operated ambulance utility as the ambulance utility of the City of Sunnyside with exclusive right to provide necessary and appropriate ambulance services to residents of the City in accordance with law and the provisions below. The ambulance utility charges set forth below are based on benefits of the ambulance utility accruing to all residents, schools, churches, nonprofit agencies, businesses and industries within the City of Sunnyside, to wit:

- A. Availability of ambulance personnel qualified to administer emergency medical service, which personnel are employees of the City of Sunnyside, thereby subject to personnel policies, supervision, direction, funding and control by the City, subject to budgetary direction and control of a legislative body elected by citizens of the City of Sunnyside;
- B. Availability of City-owned, operated and maintained equipment and emergency medical supplies, located within public facilities in the City facilitating timely response to calls for emergency medical services and 24-hour-per-day accessibility;
- C. Reduced emergency medical service fees for residents, schools, churches, nonprofit agencies, businesses and industries within the City of Sunnyside;
- D. Ambulance utility charges set and established by elected officials of the City of Sunnyside, differentiating between types of services offered and specific needs of different components of the community: residential, educational, charitable, commercial and industrial;
- E. Uniform regulation of ambulance utility services provided to residents, businesses and industries within the City of Sunnyside, established pursuant to ordinances adopted by the elected officials of the City and regulations and laws of the County, State and federal government;
- F. Availability of enhanced emergency medical service levy revenues associated with operation of the City-owned and operated ambulance utilities for residents, schools, churches, nonprofit agencies, businesses and industries within the City of Sunnyside and surrounding service area; and
- G. Enhancement of the general health, safety and welfare of residents of the City of Sunnyside. [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.020 Ambulance utility established.

As and from October 2, 1989, which prior term is hereby ratified, and from the effective date of this chapter, the ambulance service operated and maintained by the City of Sunnyside is hereby confirmed and established as the ambulance utility of the City of Sunnyside. Such utility is the exclusive provider of ambulance services to and for residents of the City of Sunnyside except as specifically provided otherwise in the sections below. This chapter sets forth the uniform requirements for residents within the City regarding use, operations and funding of the ambulance utility. [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.030 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this chapter:

- A. "Ambulance" means any vehicle designed and used to transport the ill and injured and to provide personnel, facilities and equipment to treat patients before and during transportation.
- B. "Ambulance service" means those emergency medical services provided by the City ambulance utility, including but not limited to emergency medical services provided by paramedic and emergency medical technician personnel of the City of

Sunnyside, emergency medical transport, nonemergency medical transport, administration of such services, and other emergency or nonemergency services customarily provided by the ambulance service.

C. "City" means the City of Sunnyside.

D. "Emergency equipment" means such facilities and equipment, including ambulance vehicles and medical supplies, to be used in the treatment of persons injured, ill, incapacitated, or transported by the ambulance or ambulance service.

E. "Emergency medical service" means medical treatment and care which may be rendered at the scene of any medical emergency or while transporting any patient in an ambulance to an appropriate medical facility, including ambulance transportation between medical facilities.

F. "Basic life support" means noninvasive emergency medical services requiring basic medical treatment skills as defined in Chapter 18.73 RCW.

G. "Advanced life support" means invasive emergency medical services requiring advanced medical treatment skills as defined by Chapter 18.71 RCW.

H. "Household" means any residential unit in the City, including all single-family residences, each apartment or individual unit in multiple dwelling units, each manufactured home and any other residential dwelling unit within the City; except, the term "household" shall not include units or rooms intended, designed and used for itinerant or temporary housing, such as hotels, motels, or bed-and-breakfast businesses where occupancy does not exceed 30 days.

I. "Business" means any person, corporation, partnership or other entity engaged in commerce or nonprofit or charitable activities in the City, including those commercial uses described in Chapters [17.32](#), [17.36](#), [17.40](#), [17.44](#), and [17.48](#) SMC, and including public and private schools, and churches, where such person, corporation, partnership or other entity operates from an established building or other location within the City, including but not limited to stores, shops, vending businesses (including mobile vending businesses licensed under Chapter [5.21](#) SMC), offices, schools, churches, hotels, motels, bed-and-breakfast businesses, or other permanent or temporary structure, except where a person operates a licensed business in a residence pursuant to approved license for home occupation. For purposes of this chapter, "school" means each separate school facility operated as a separate educational entity with its own administrative staff, such as a principal, vice principal and other assigned staff.

J. "Industry" means any business, firm, person, corporation or other entity engaged in manufacturing or other industrial use described in Chapters [17.56](#) or [17.60](#) SMC, where such business, firm, person, corporation or other entity operates from an established building or other location within the City and is subject to the business license requirements of SMC Title [5](#). [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.040 Administration.

The City shall administer, implement and enforce the provisions of the ambulance service and this chapter. [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.050 Utility zones.

The service areas of the ambulance service shall be designated by utility zones described below.

A. City Utility Zone. All properties, structures, facilities and areas within the City limits of the City of Sunnyside, as such now exist and are expanded or modified, are hereby designated and established as the City service zone.

B. Outside Utility Zone. All properties, structures, facilities and areas lying outside the City limits of the City of Sunnyside, as such are established, approved and delineated by appropriate agencies of the State of Washington and the Emergency Medical Services Medical Program Director with jurisdiction over the ambulance service.

C. Criteria for Designation and Creation of Utility Zones. The City utility zone is created and designated as a separate service zone for reasons and purposes as follows, including but not limited to:

1. Areas within the City are accessed using City streets and rights-of-way, allowing the City to provide efficient emergency response over streets and rights-of-way maintained and established by the City, together with the availability of other utility services (water, sewer, streets) and franchise utility services (power, gas, telecommunications);
2. Addresses and street maps for residences, schools, businesses and other structures are established and maintained by the City within such zone, facilitating efficiency of emergency response;
3. Access to individual lots, including residential, school, commercial and industrial, is subject to development standards and zoning requirements of the City, thus facilitating rapid emergency response and access to such properties, lots and structures;
4. Properties, facilities and structures within the City are identified, categorized and listed within the City's emergency response plan, as required by law, which includes designation of, and procedures for, response to hazardous sites and continuing City inspection and regulation of such sites;
5. Immediate assistance from the Sunnyside Police Department is available as needed or requested for emergency medical services to locations within the City;
6. The City maintains a system of regular, scheduled fire safety inspections for commercial and industrial facilities and structures within the City, as well as inspections for all new construction, thus facilitating fire prevention and safety and reducing risk of the need for emergency medical responses.

D. The outside utility zone is created and designated as a separate service zone for reasons and purposes as follows, including but not limited to:

1. Streets and rights-of-way necessary to access properties and facilities outside the City are not within the jurisdiction or control of the City, and are not subject to City maintenance and care, thus increasing the need for precaution and reducing efficiency of response;
2. For mutual aid fire services, which are likely to include emergency medical or

- ambulance response by the City, there is no availability of City water utility access for assured minimum fire flows, thus increasing the possibility of more destructive fires and consequent need for emergency medical treatment of affected persons;
3. Access to lots within the Outside Utility zone is subject to locating unmarked, unpaved driveways developed to rural standards, thus increasing response times and decreasing efficiency of response;
 4. Designation of addresses is not subject to control or maintenance by the City, thereby causing less efficient response;
 5. Designation of hazardous sites within the outside utility zone is not subject to control by the City;
 6. Such hazardous sites are not subject to inspection or regulatory control by the City, thus increasing the need for precaution and reducing efficiency of emergency response;
 7. Lack of immediate assistance from law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction in the outside utility zone.
- E. Creation of Additional Utility Zone(s). The City reserves the right to create additional or modified utility zones based upon criteria deemed appropriate and necessary in order to provide for the efficient provision of ambulance utility services. [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.060 Ambulance service – City utility zone.

All persons receiving emergency medical service within the City, including residents, employees of businesses and industries, and customers or business invitees thereof while within the City, shall be deemed to be within the City utility zone for purposes of administration of this chapter. Calls for ambulance service generated within the City of Sunnyside shall be made or referred to the City of Sunnyside ambulance service. [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.070 Ambulance service – Outside utility zone.

All persons residing outside the City limits, who receive initial emergency medical service outside the City limits, shall be deemed to be within the outside utility zone for purposes of administration of this chapter, regardless of whether or not, in the course of such emergency medical service, such persons are transported or provided any portion of such service within the City limits. Calls for ambulance service generated outside the City limits of the City of Sunnyside may be referred to the City of Sunnyside ambulance service unless otherwise mandated to be made to the City of Sunnyside ambulance service by any State or emergency medical service agency with jurisdiction. [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.080 Base utility charges.

A. City Utility Zone – Base Utility Charge Established. In addition to any other appropriate funding charge, levy, tax or fee, there is hereby established and assessed a monthly base utility charge within the City utility zone to enforce the ambulance

service regulatory and administrative duties of this chapter and to mitigate the burden of the public need for emergency medical services. The base utility charge shall be collected and enforced in the same manner and with the procedures established for City utilities, including but not limited to, water, sewer and garbage utilities.

B. Base Utility Charge – Rates. The following monthly utility charges shall be assessed and collected:

1. Households. Each household shall be assessed a monthly base utility charge in the amount of \$3.00.

2. Businesses and Industries. Each business shall be assessed a monthly base utility charge in the amount of \$3.00, plus \$3.00 for each "equivalent residential unit (ERU)" computed as follows: The ERU shall be calculated by dividing the total number of employees employed by such business or industry, up to a maximum of 101 employees, by the number representing the average "household size" of residential and housing units within the City (as published from time to time by the Office of Financial Management of the State of Washington). (Note: For purposes of initial calculation, the household size is 3.6 persons per household according to current OFM calculations. The total number of employees would thus be divided by 3.6, and the resulting number multiplied by \$3.00 to determine the ERU portion of the base utility charge; provided, however, that a church shall not be assessed a base utility charge greater than \$3.00.)

3. Adjustment of Base Utility Rate. The base utility rate may be adjusted annually by the City Manager to reflect adjustments or changes in maintenance and operations costs of the ambulance utility; provided, however, that no annual increase shall exceed six percent without prior approval of the City Council. In the event such rate is modified, the City Manager shall post the new rate at the offices of City Hall and the offices of the Sunnyside Fire Department and may distribute or publish such new rate as deemed appropriate to advise the public.

C. Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance Fund. All base utility charge revenues collected pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited by the City into the Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance Fund. Such revenues shall be used solely for the operation, maintenance and capital needs of the ambulance service utility and emergency medical services provided thereby. [Ord. 2099 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.090 Emergency medical service rates.

A. Service Fee Rates. Until adjusted pursuant to subsection (C) of this section, the following service fee rates shall apply for emergency medical services rendered:

Description of Service:	Amount
Basic Life Support Base Rate	
Emergent: City Utility Zone	\$442.00

	Outside Utility Zone	\$752.00
Nonemergent:	City Utility Zone	\$292.00
	Outside Utility Zone	\$602.00
Advanced Life Support Base Rate		
Emergent:	City Utility Zone	\$490.00
	Outside Utility Zone	\$816.00
Nonemergent:	City Utility Zone	\$340.00
	Outside Utility Zone	\$666.00
ALS – Level 2		
	City Utility Zone	\$715.00
	Outside Utility Zone	\$910.00
Special Care Transport		
	City Utility Zone	\$835.00
	Outside Utility Zone	\$1,255.00
Return Trip		
	City Utility Zone	\$232.00
	Outside Utility Zone	\$294.00
Mileage Charge		\$11.00 per mile
Extra Attendant (Transfers only)		\$25.00 per 1/2 hour
Ambulance Stand-by		\$50.00 per 1/2 hour

B. Charges for Other Services and Supplies. In addition to the service fee rates described in subsection (A) of this section, there shall be posted at City Hall and the Sunnyside Fire Department and available for inspection by the public a list describing additional services, disposable and nondisposable supplies, and the applicable charges therefor. Any equipment or supplies rendered unusable, or cannot be returned to service, after administration of emergency medical aid or service to any patient shall be charged to the patient.

C. Adjustment of Service Fee Rates and Charges for Other Services and Supplies. The service fee rates and charges for other services and supplies, or any of them, set forth in subsections (A) and (B) of this section may be adjusted from time to time by the City Manager in order to provide consistency with approved rate structures mandated by federal or State agencies with jurisdiction, or to maximize reimbursement from federal medical service reimbursement sources, including but not

limited to Medicare and/or Medicaid. In the event such rates, or any of them, are modified, the City Manager shall post the new rate or rates at the offices of City Hall and the offices of the Sunnyside Fire Department and may distribute or publish such new rates as deemed appropriate to advise the public. Additionally, the City shall provide a copy of the new rate or rates to each medical service provider or facility with which it has a transport agreement. A copy of the new rate or rates shall also be appended to the ordinance creating this chapter, maintained on file with the City. [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.100 Transport agreements.

The City shall have the authority to enter into ambulance service transport agreements with medical care facilities and providers in order to promote the purposes and uses of the ambulance service and to render ambulance services to such facilities and the patients served by such facilities and providers. The parties may set forth in such agreement agreed rates for nonemergency transports and other services or supplies. [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.110 Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance Utility Fund.

There is established within the budget of the City a separate fund to be known as the "Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance Utility Fund." Monies deposited in this fund shall be used for the purposes of operation, maintenance and capital needs of the City's ambulance and emergency medical services utility. [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]

13.32.120 Severability.

In the event any provision, sentence, clause or portion of this chapter is found to be unconstitutional or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such finding or determination of unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall not be deemed or construed to render ineffective or unenforceable any remaining portion of this chapter. [Ord. 2086 § 1, 2004.]