



## INTRODUCTION OF FIRE SYSTEMS BASE CHARGES – OCTOBER 1, 2018

Please be advised that the Board of County Commissioners, Ex-officio the Governing Board of the Collier County Water-Sewer District (District), has approved a rate study, proposing changes to charges for private fire protection systems connected to the District's potable water distribution mains. The Special Act of the Florida Legislature that created the District requires a public hearing before changes to user rates can be adopted. An advertised public hearing will be held in September for a Resolution amending the proposed rates as from October 1, 2018.

The proposed monthly base charges will be billed to all privately-owned fire protection systems in accordance with methodology utilized by the Florida Public Service Commission that is applied by public utilities in the State of Florida and is based on the size of the service line, whether metered or not, connecting the private system to the District water system (i.e. readiness to serve).

**NOTE: Please see enclosed list of properties identified as being under your stewardship.**

Florida Administrative Code, Rule 25-30.465 states:

Private Fire Protection Rates.

The rate for private fire protection service shall be a charge based on the size of the connection rather than the number of fixtures connected. The rate shall be one-twelfth the current base facility charge of the utility's meter sizes, unless otherwise supported by the utility.

If you are an existing customer with a utility account that includes a fire meter, the new fire systems base charge will appear on bills from November 1, 2018.

Where non-metered connections to the District's water system exist for property owners, with a privately-owned fire protection system, Applications for Service will be mailed to those property owners, New accounts will then be created and those property owners will also begin receiving bills with the fires systems base charges from November 1, 2018.



Property owners are reminded that District services are provided to the property, and as such, in accordance with the Collier County Ordinance No. 2001-73, as amended, Water-Sewer District Uniform Billing, Operating and Regulatory Standards:

District Regulation, P.

- *Unpaid Fees To Constitute a Lien.* In the event that the fees, rates or charges for the services and facilities of any water, and/or sewer, and/or IQ water system shall not be paid as and when due, any unpaid balance thereof and all penalties accruing thereon shall be an automatic lien on any parcel or property affected thereby. Such liens shall be superior and paramount to the interest on such parcel or property of any owner, lessee, tenant, mortgagor or other person except the lien of county taxes and shall be on a parity with the lien of any such county taxes. In the event that any such fees, rates or charges shall not be paid as and when due and shall be in default for thirty days or more the unpaid balance thereof and all interest accrued thereon, together with attorneys fees and costs, may be recovered by the District in a civil action, and any such lien and accrued interest may be foreclosed or otherwise enforced by the District by action or suit in equity as for the foreclosure of a mortgage on real property.

**Fire Systems Base Charge (per month)**

<b>Service Line Size (Inches)</b>	<b>Rate Effective October 1, 2018</b>
1 1/2	\$5.33
2	\$8.53
3	\$23.99
4	\$53.31
6	\$106.64
8	\$186.62
10	\$338.25
12	\$501.55

Water consumption will be charged at potable water rates.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Customer Service at (239) 252-2380.

Sincerely,

Teresa Riesen

Manager, Utility Billing and Customer Service