



PLACER HILLS – NEWCASTLE – PENRYN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS



STAFF REPORT



Date: November 30, 2021
 To: Board of Directors
 From: Ian Gow, Fire Chief
 Subject: Fire Recovery

Background

1. All 3 fire districts use Fire Recovery to bill for reimbursement for vehicle fires, vehicle accidents and hazardous materials incidents.
2. Originally, all County agencies only billed out of County residents. Over time, this changed and most departments now bill out of district residents.
3. Fire Recovery only sends bills to the insurance companies of the people involved.

CURRENT SITUATION

1. Fire Recovery states that they are seeing decreasing payments from insurance companies.
2. They recommend that we allow them to bill the responsible party directly.

FIRE RECOVERY PLAN

1. Bill insurance companies as per normal practice.
2. If they decline to pay, bill the responsible party directly.
3. They will bill the responsible party twice then stop.
4. They will not send anyone to collections.

PRIOR REVENUE

Fiscal Year	Placer Hills	Newcastle	Penryn
2020/2021	\$8,715	\$1,965	0
2019/2020	\$4,272	\$3,739	\$371
2018/2019	\$4,206	0	\$526

DISCUSSION

1. The income is helpful
2. There is a real possibility of adverse public relations with the direct billing of the responsible party.

BOARDS' OPTIONS

1. Do nothing and accept whatever the Insurance Companies pay.
2. Allow Fire Recovery to bill individuals if their Insurance Company declines to pay.

CHIEF GOW'S RECOMMENDATION

If the Board(s) choose option 2, I suggest we provide direction to staff by writing a Standard Operating Guide (SOG). This SOG would direct staff to fill out the appropriate paperwork and only send it to Fire Recovery upon review by a Chief Officer.