



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation  
**Division of Fire and Life Safety**  
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## State Fire Marshal

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: South Carolina Fire Service**  
**FROM: Robert Polk, State Fire Marshal**  
**DATE: Oct. 23, 2014**  
**RE: Accident Response Fee Survey Results**

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The South Carolina General Assembly recently directed the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Office of the State Fire Marshal, with conducting an “Accident Response Fee Survey.” Proviso 81.13 states:

*From the funds authorized in this act, the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation shall survey all subdivisions of the State that provide emergency fire or medical response services to ascertain if they currently levy or plan on levying an accident response service fee or a like fee. Additionally, the survey shall ascertain to whom the current fee or proposed fee is or shall be levied upon. Report findings shall be provided to the Chairman of the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee and the Chairman of the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee on or before Nov. 1, 2014.*

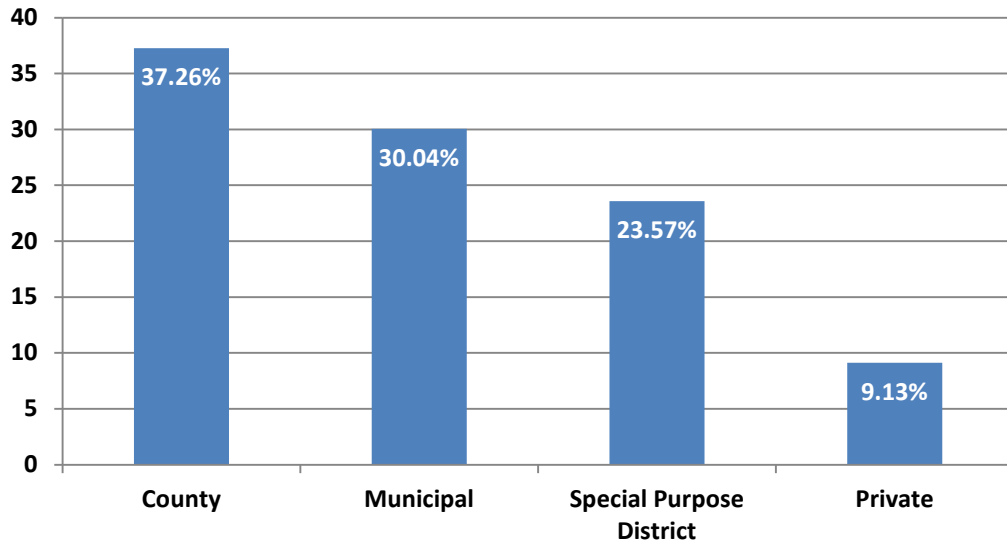
To comply with this directive, a survey link with related questions was emailed Aug. 21, 2014 to every fire chief listed on the State Fire Marshal’s office “Fire Portal” database as well as distributed via the S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control to EMS directors who provide 911 services. Our office collected responses until Sept. 15, 2014.

To date, we received 263 responses. A compilation of the results are attached and summarized below:

- 87 percent provide emergency fire response
- 69 percent provide emergency medical response services
- 80 percent do not currently levy an accident response service or similar fee and, of that number, 74 percent do not plan to levy one in the future (question 7).
- Of the 20 percent that levy a fee, 89 percent bill an insurance company
- Of those that levy a fee, 65 percent impose a fee for services provided at an accident scene
- Of those that plan to levy a fee in the future (26 percent), 87 percent indicated it would be based on services provided versus a fixed flat rate (13 percent).

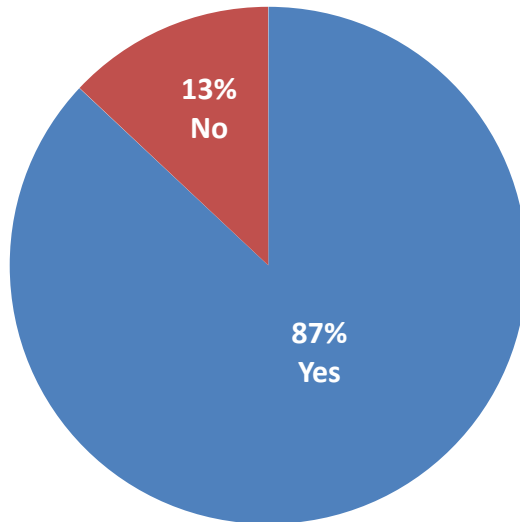
**Q: 1 Indicate type of agency (by percentage)**

Answered: 263



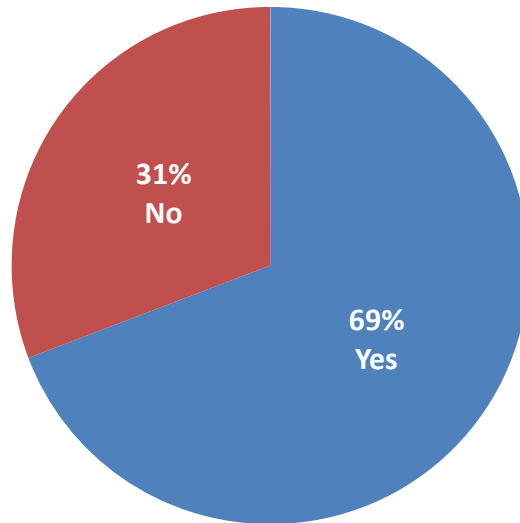
**Q: 2 Do you provide emergency fire response?**

Answered: 263



**Q: 3 Do you provide emergency medical response services?**

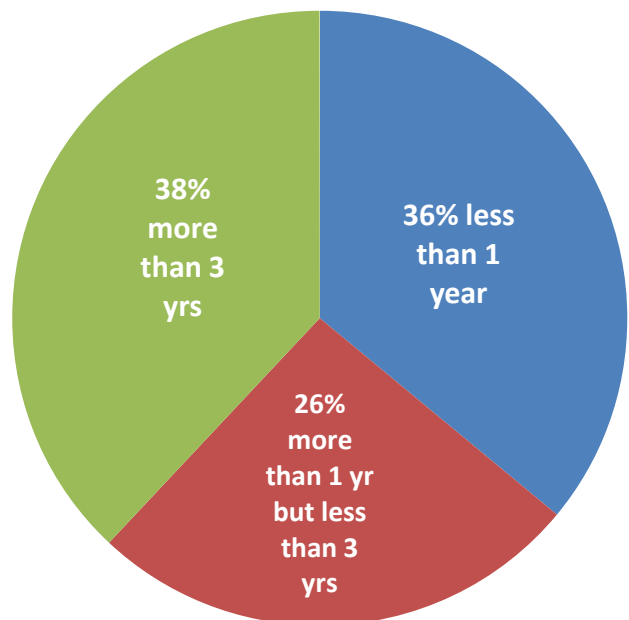
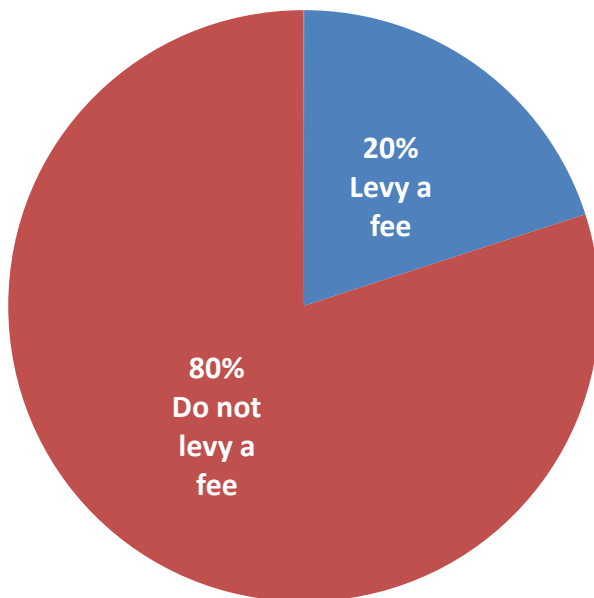
Answered: 263



**Q: 4 Do you currently levy an accident response service or similar fee?**

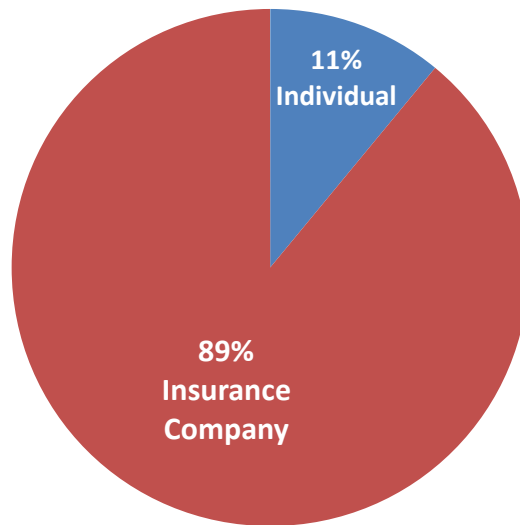
If "yes," how long has the fee been levied?

Answered: 53



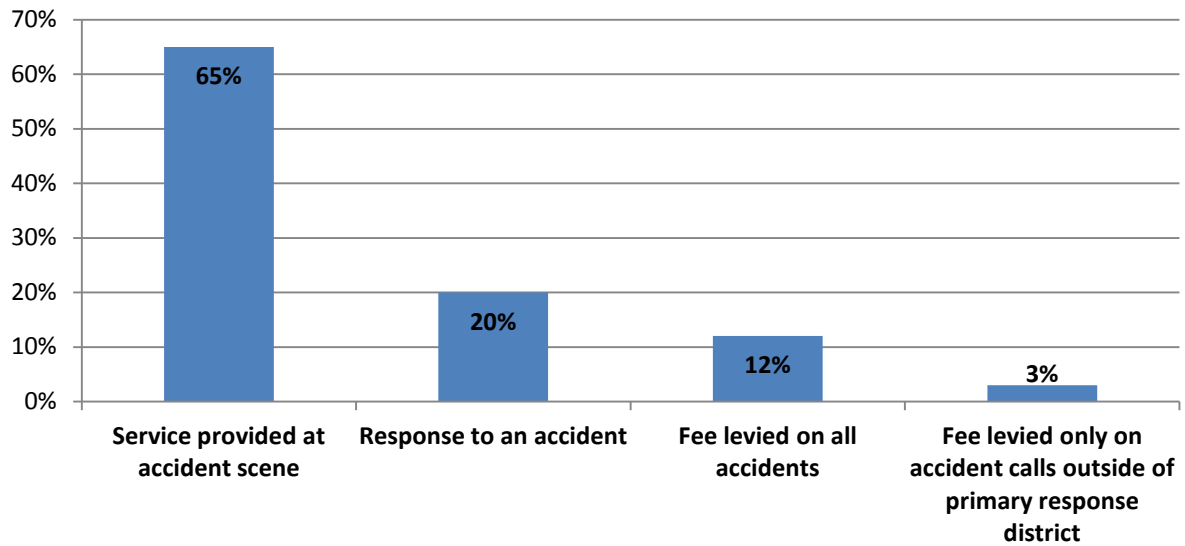
**Q: 5 If "yes" to question 4, who is the current or proposed fee levied upon?**

Answered: 56



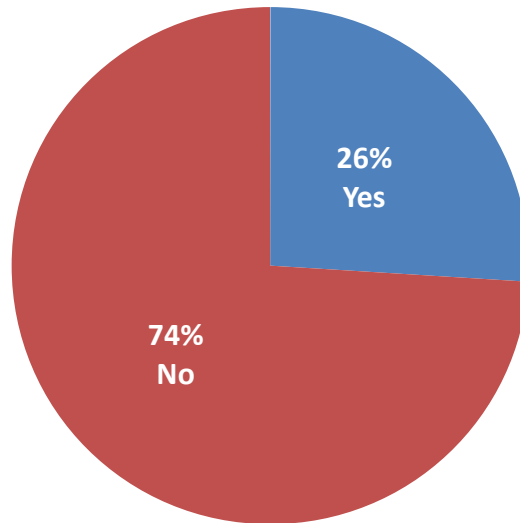
**Q: 6 If "Yes" to question 4, what causes the fee to be imposed? (Mark all that apply.)**

Answered: 75



**Q: 7 If "no" to question 4, do you plan to levy an accident response service or similar fee?**

Answered: 175



**Q: 8 If you answered "yes" to questions 4 or 7, what type of fee is/will be levied?**

Answered: 94

