

Response to Questions on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisors Hudgins and McKay

Question: Is it possible to include an overtime rate surcharge for Fire Marshal fees if contractors want expedited service? Is there a way for contractors to pay more for quicker service?

Response: Chapter 61 of the Code of the County of Fairfax allows the Fire Marshal to offer the option of requesting after-hours testing of fire protection systems to contractors that wish to expedite the testing. The current rate for these services is \$300 per hour, and can include up to two inspectors depending on the type of test required. The revenue generated from after-hours testing fully recovers the costs associated with conducting this service. Historically, the Fire Prevention Division has worked with the industry to try to accommodate the need for after-hours testing to minimize the wait times for these services. The current lag time for builders and developers for after-hours testing of fire protection systems is approximately five business days. The lag time for regular (non-overtime) fire protection systems acceptance tests is two weeks for visual system inspections and three weeks for fire alarm inspections. In calendar year 2007, 538 after-hours tests of fire protections systems were performed.