

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 ENTITLED “FIRE PREVENTION”
SECTION 99-13 ENTITLED “FIRE WATCH AND FIRE SAFETY STANDBY POLICY”
TO ADJUST THE FEES FOR SERVICE**

WHEREAS, it is in the interests and authority of the Township of Bridgewater to periodically revise the Township’s Fire Prevention Ordinance to conform with the most recent updates to the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code; and

WHEREAS, the Township adopted Ordinance #21-08 amending Chapter 99 to update fire prevention requirements, structures, uses, inspections, permit and registration fees and penalties in accordance with the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code which became effective on May 10, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Section 99-13 outlines the Township’s policy and services associated with events that require fire watch and fire safety standby; and

WHEREAS, the Township finds it necessary to amend Section 99-13 to adjust the fees for fire service, which involves an hourly rate associated with a fire inspector’s compensation for extraneous employment along with a corresponding administrative fee, to mirror the calculations used with similar fees for police service; and

WHEREAS, in consideration thereof, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Bridgewater desire to amend Chapter 99, Section 99-13 of the Municipal Code entitled Fire Watch and Fire Safety Standby Policy; and

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey that Chapter 99 of the Municipal Code of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey entitled “Fire Watch and Fire Safety Standby Policy” is amended pursuant to the provisions hereof (additions are noted **thusly** and deletions are noted ~~thusly~~):

Section I

Chapter 99- 13 is hereby amended as follows:

§ 99-13 Fire Watch and Fire Safety Standby Policy

- A. Events Requiring Permits: When Fire Official/Fire Marshal determines that an on-site fire inspector or firefighting personnel or equipment are required for fire watch as a result of any of the following listed below, the owner or occupant responsible shall obtain a permit for the use or event.
- a. Fire protection system failures and/or deficiencies, including both suppression and detection systems required by the New Jersey International Fire and Building Codes.
 - b. Emergency warning and fire detection systems required by the New Jersey International Fire and Building Codes.

- c. Fire safety at any occupancy or event within the Bridgewater Township to ensure the safety of the public or emergency responders or any other event in which a crowd of potentially 100 persons or more is to assemble.

B. Required Personnel: hours on Duty:

- a. The Fire Official/Fire Marshal shall determine the number of inspectors and/or firefighting personnel required.
- b. The Fire Official/Fire Marshal shall determine the hours that the fire inspector(s) and/or fire equipment and personnel will be on duty.

C. Permit Fees: Permit fees, if required, shall be separate from the standby fees and are the responsibilities of the owner. This includes any fire safety permit fee for the activity taking place as well as any fire subcode permit required under the NJ Uniform Construction Code.

D. Fees for service: Compensation for inspector(s) for nonworking hours for for-profit groups or entities will be at ~~\$67~~ **\$78.87** per hour with ~~\$2~~ **\$13.87** per hour being directed to the Township.

Type of Permit	Permit Fee	Maximum Penalty
Type 1 Permit	\$60	\$120
Type 2 Permit	\$215	\$430
Type 3 Permit	\$430	\$860
Type 4 Permit	\$645	\$1,281
Special Event Permit Fees		
Per special event, up to 3 days duration, including setup and takedown	\$100	\$200
Per special event, 4 days to 6 days of duration, including setup and takedown	\$150	\$300

Per special event, 7 days to 10 days of duration, including setup and takedown	\$200	\$400
Per special event, 10 days of duration or longer, including setup and takedown	\$250	\$500

E. Right of Access. The Fire Official/Fire Marshal or their designee(s) shall have right of access to the premises and areas surrounding it without interference from the property owner, tenant or operator intervention.

F. Permit Fees; Penalties for Failure to Secure Permit: Failure to secure a permit prior to commencing the operation, process or activity for which a permit is required shall be punishable by a penalty of no more than double the amount of the applicable permit fee [N.J.S.A. 5:70-2.12(b)7]. In accordance with N.J.S.A 5:70-2.9(c) the following penalties shall be applicable, in accordance with the fees adopted pursuant to §99-9.F:

G. Permit required for each event or date: Permits shall be required for each separate event or date of the activity requiring such a permit.

Section II

All ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section III

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to this section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

Section IV

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication in the manner required by New Jersey general law but, in no event, less than 20 days after its final passage by the Township Council and approval by the Mayor, where such approval is required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-181(b).

Adopted: June 21, 2021
Effective: July 10, 2021