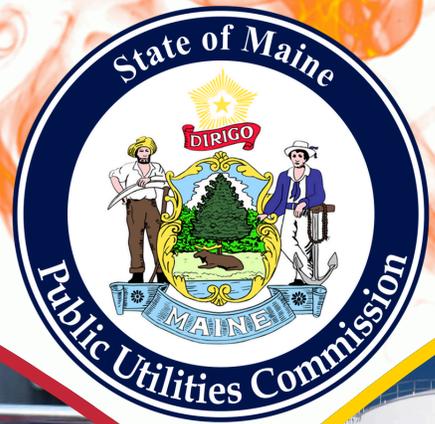


FIRE PROTECTION

See Chapter 69 of Maine PUC Rules



Water utilities charge towns for fire protection.

Water utilities were originally designed with fire protection in mind, as a way to be able to fight fires in town centers.

To be able to provide fire protection, utilities are typically sized 2-3 times larger than they would need to be if they were providing drinking water alone.

Utilities must install and maintain fire protection infrastructure. This is more than just the hydrants, it also includes storage tanks, water mains, pumps, and back up power.

Utilities provide a 24/7 on demand stand-by service of a high volume of fast flowing water that can be used if a fire occurs.

Fire protection rates are determined by an allocation study or by utilizing Chapter 69 of the PUC Rules.

This flyer is intended for informational purposes only. This information is not legal advice and does not set any legal standard. Regulated public utilities must comply with Maine law and regulations and should consult with legal counsel for interpretation of laws and regulations.



WHY TOWNS PAY WATER UTILITIES FOR FIRE PROTECTION:

- People in town are safer in the event of a structure, vehicle or forest fire.
- Water utilities serve town centers and that is where most of the important town services tax payers use are located. This includes libraries, hospitals & grocery stores.
- If a school, town office, or other town building should burn, the entire town could pay higher taxes to rebuild them.
- Insurance rates may decrease when fire protection is available to homeowners and commercial property owners.