

**ISLE OF PALMS WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION  
DEDICATED AND DUAL-PURPOSE FIRE SERVICE POLICY**

- I. **Background:** The Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission (IOPWSC) currently permits dedicated fire services to properties, both residential and commercial. When these dedicated taps are installed, the owner, builder, or licensed fire sprinkler designer will determine the size of the tap needed for the fire service, in accordance with the requirements of the 2021 South Carolina Residential Code, as amended, including Section P2904. If a flow test is requested, the IOPWSC staff will perform the flow test and furnish the results. No impact fees are assessed to fire services; only tap fees are assessed, depending on the size service requested, at the prevailing fees approved by the Commission, minus the cost of the meter (dedicated fire services are not metered). An annual fire line fee is charged to the customer based on the size of the fire service installed, in an amount equal to one month's basic facility charge. All dedicated fire services must comply with the Commission's current backflow prevention policy. The Commission's responsibility for the maintenance of any service line is limited solely to Commission-owned utility lines located within the public right-of-way and shall end at the fire service connection at the property line or edge of the right-of-way.
- II. **Dual-Purpose Fire Services:** Dual-Purpose fire systems (fire and domestic via a single tap) will be allowed under the following conditions:
1. **New service installation:** The owner, builder, or licensed fire sprinkler designer will determine the size of the service needed to furnish water to the residence and fire sprinkler system and request the size service for the property. All applicable tap and impact fees will be assessed.
  2. **Retrofit of existing service:** If an existing service is retrofitted to include the domestic and fire service, a licensed fire sprinkler designer must certify that the existing service is adequate to manage the demand for both domestic and fire service.
  3. **Meter size increases:** If a meter needs to be increased based on a licensed fire sprinkler designer's calculations and the existing service line to the property will facilitate the increase, the customer shall be charged all applicable fees approved by the Commission to increase the size of the meter, but no additional impact fees shall be charged. Should the existing service line not be adequate to service both domestic and fire system demand and need to be increased, the owner shall be responsible for all costs associated with the increase in the size of line to supply the meter requested to the property based on the current fees approved by the Commission.
  4. Customers with dual-purpose fire services will be charged monthly basic facility charges based on the meter size. No annual fire line charge will be assessed.
  5. All dual-purpose fire service installations must comply with the Commission's backflow prevention policy.
- III. **Termination of Fire Service (Dedicated and/or Dual-Purpose):** In the event customer fails to pay its bill, IOPWSC may terminate service, as provided under Rates, Fees and Billing:

Service Termination. In the event the IOPWSC terminates service due to account delinquency, customer must pay the outstanding balance plus all fees due before service will be restored. IOPWSC shall not be liable for any claims, damages, losses, liability or costs incurred in connection with any termination of service as a result of customer's failure to pay its bill. In connection with the installation of any fire service line, customer shall release and hold harmless IOPWSC from any and all claims, damages, losses, liability or costs incurred in connection with any termination of service as a result of customer's failure to pay its bill.

IV. **References:**

IOPWSC Backflow Prevention Policy

IOPWSC Current Approved Rate Schedule

[Chapter 29: Water Supply and Distribution, South Carolina Residential Code | UpCodes](#)

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