

Suffield Township Fire Department

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Robert L. Rasnick, Chief

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Starting June 1, 2007, the Township Trustees voted to "*soft bill*" residents for EMS transports. This "*soft billing*" means that we are now invoicing residents with insurance for the transport to the hospital. We still do not bill **residents** for our services, but we do attempt to collect any insurance money that may be available. If you do not have insurance, we do not want any money from you. If you have some insurance, we accept whatever is paid by your insurance company to be payment in full. When the Tuscany project is fully operational, it has been estimated that there will be around 100 requests for EMS services to that facility per year. This would generate around another \$20,000 per year. The only problem with soft billing is that it is very difficult to budget anticipated income due to the massive fluctuations in collections. Some accounts are up to one year old due to pending litigation, and medicare will only pay \$88.95 for a basic run, and only \$165.70 for advanced life support, regardless of the actual cost.

Currently, about 7% of our residents utilize the services of the fire department and EMS annually. We anticipate that by *soft billing*, we will be able to generate an additional \$75,000 per year that does not come directly from our taxpayers. We consider this type of billing to be an alternative source of funding that does not directly impact you. In fact, there is a possibility that the soft billing program can help you. If you have to meet a set deductible before your insurance pays anything, then our "soft bill" will go toward you meeting your deductible, and we would not receive anything for our transport. For example, if you need to be taken to the hospital for a broken leg, your insurance company would receive our bill for around \$500, and this would be added to the emergency room costs. Your insurance would see our soft bill and would apply that to your deductible, thereby you would not be responsible for the \$500, and your account would be credited accordingly.

Should you have any questions concerning this "*soft billing*" program, please contact me via any of the above methods.

Sincerely,

Chief Robert Rasnick