

AMADOR COUNTY ASSESSOR

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Attention Amador County Property Owners:

Since bills have gone out for the fire fee/tax from the state, the Assessor's Office has received information from property owners about errors in determining if fees should be charged. Having received this information it was determined that this was important enough to pass on to property owners who might want to confirm the accuracy fire fee/tax bills received. The bills just came out and have only been sent to four counties so there is not a lot of information on their accuracy. However, in the short time that they have been out, we have seen enough mistakes to alert property owners.

The bill for the fire fee/tax is a rather generic looking, state, form that is titled "BILLING AND REFUND NOTICE" and rather than having an address identifying the property, an assessor's parcel number is used.

The bills are supposed to be \$150 for every habitable structure found on a property, or \$115 with an exemption if the parcel lies within a special fire district such as AFD, but we have seen bills for properties without habitable structures. Unfortunately, there is no description as to what is being considered as the habitable unit or units. Some of the bills have been for properties with buildings such as tool sheds, shops and wood sheds. We have even seen bills for vacant parcels with only a tennis court or only a well and septic system.

If a bill is received for a property where there is a house or some kind of living area then it is probably accurate. However, if a bill is received and there is no house or living area then the bill could be incorrect and contestable.

For more information or to contest the new tax/fee visit the state website :
www.firepreventionfee.com .

The Amador County Assessor's Office will be ready to assist where we can, however, this is a state fee/tax, not a county tax and the state website should have better and more up to date information. For other questions or concerns regarding the Assessor's Office please call 209-223-6351 or mail me at jrooney@amadorgov.org .