



Types of Fire Protection-Related Entities in Montana

Service Type	Service Type	Service Type	Service Type
Paid Government Departments (Required for all cities, but cities of third class may contract or consolidate with another fire protection provider. Governed by 7-33-4101 and 7-33-4109, MCA.)	Paid Government Departments (Required for all cities, but cities of third class may contract or consolidate with another fire protection provider. Governed by 7-33-4101 and 7-33-4109, MCA.)	Paid Government Departments (Required for all cities, but cities of third class may contract or consolidate with another fire protection provider. Governed by 7-33-4101 and 7-33-4109, MCA.)	Paid Government Departments (Required for all cities, but cities of third class may contract or consolidate with another fire protection provider. Governed by 7-33-4101 and 7-33-4109, MCA.)
Paid /Volunteer Providers Mixed (with emergency medical service license)	Paid /Volunteer Providers Mixed (with emergency medical service license)	Paid /Volunteer Providers Mixed (with emergency medical service license)	Paid /Volunteer Providers Mixed (with emergency medical service license)
Rural Fire Districts 7-33-2101 and 2105, MCA (These have governing body status and may request property tax levies.)	Rural Fire Districts 7-33-2101 and 2105, MCA (These have governing body status and may request property tax levies.)	Rural Fire Districts 7-33-2101 and 2105, MCA (These have governing body status and may request property tax levies.)	Rural Fire Districts 7-33-2101 and 2105, MCA (These have governing body status and may request property tax levies.)
Volunteer Fire Departments (May be formed under Title 7, chapter 33, parts 21 through 24 or 41.)	Volunteer Fire Departments (May be formed under Title 7, chapter 33, parts 21 through 24 or 41.)	Volunteer Fire Departments (May be formed under Title 7, chapter 33, parts 21 through 24 or 41.)	Volunteer Fire Departments (May be formed under Title 7, chapter 33, parts 21 through 24 or 41.)
Fire Services Areas 7-33-2401, MCA – crated by county commissioners upon petition of at least 30 property owners in the service area and public comment. County sets rates. Service may be by	Fire Services Areas 7-33-2401, MCA – crated by county commissioners upon petition of	Fire Services Areas 7-33-2401, MCA – crated by county commissioners upon petition of at least 30 property owners in the service area and public comment. County sets	Fire Services Areas 7-33-2401, MCA – crated by county commissioners upon petition of at least 30 property owners in the

<p>adjacent fire department or the service area itself.</p>	<p>at least 30 property owners in the service area and public comment. County sets rates. Service may be by adjacent fire department or the service area itself.</p>	<p>rates. Service may be by adjacent fire department or the service area itself.</p>	<p>service area and public comment. County sets rates. Service may be by adjacent fire department or the service area itself.</p>
<p>Volunteer Fire Companies 7-33-2311, MCA (unincorporated towns – basically private entities that may be created by a group of individuals or by a fire district or by a county governing body.)</p>	<p>Volunteer Fire Companies 7-33-2311, MCA (unincorporated towns – basically private entities that may be created by a group of individuals or by a fire district or by a county governing body.)</p>	<p>Volunteer Fire Companies 7-33-2311, MCA (unincorporated towns – basically private entities that may be created by a group of individuals or by a fire district or by a county governing body.)</p>	<p>Volunteer Fire Companies 7-33-2311, MCA (unincorporated towns – basically private entities that may be created by a group of individuals or by a fire district or by a county governing body.)</p>
<p>Volunteer Rural Fire Control Crew (may offer rural land (not structure) protection under 7-33-2201, MCA. County commissioners appoint rural fire chief and either provide direct fire protection for areas not under wildland fire protection or contract for wildland fire protection (7-33-2202, MCA)</p>	<p>Volunteer Rural Fire Control Crew (may offer rural land (not structure) protection under 7-33-2201, MCA. County commissioners appoint rural fire chief and either provide direct fire protection for areas not under wildland fire protection or contract for wildland fire protection (7-33-2202, MCA)</p>	<p>Volunteer Rural Fire Control Crew (may offer rural land (not structure) protection under 7-33-2201, MCA. County commissioners appoint rural fire chief and either provide direct fire protection for areas not under wildland fire protection or contract for wildland fire protection (7-33-2202, MCA)</p>	<p>Volunteer Rural Fire Control Crew (may offer rural land (not structure) protection under 7-33-2201, MCA. County commissioners appoint rural fire chief and either provide direct fire protection for areas not under wildland fire protection or contract for wildland fire protection (7-33-2202, MCA)</p>

<p>Fire Relief Associations (Authorized under Title 19, chapter 18, for incorporated city or town fire departments. Allows formation of disability and pension fund.)</p>	<p>Fire Relief Associations (Authorized under Title 19, chapter 18, for incorporated city or town fire departments. Allows formation of disability and pension fund.)</p>	<p>Fire Relief Associations (Authorized under Title 19, chapter 18, for incorporated city or town fire departments. Allows formation of disability and pension fund.)</p>	<p>Fire Relief Associations (Authorized under Title 19, chapter 18, for incorporated city or town fire departments. Allows formation of disability and pension fund.)</p>
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Sources: Harold Blattie, “Fire Protection in Montana”, presentation to committee July 2017, Montana League of Cities and Towns for list of cities of first and second classes, State Auditor’s Office for list of Fire Relief Associations, Department of Public Health and Human Services for links between fire departments and emergency medical services.

Developed by Sonja Nowakowski during the 2017-18 LGIC interim as a resource for SJ21: a study of EMS and Volunteer Services.