

FACTS ABOUT THE

9-1-1 Surcharge Renewal for Allegan County

Here are the **FACTS** -

- All Michigan Central Dispatch Centers can be funded by surcharge or millage. The Allegan County Central Dispatch (ACCD) became a centralized dispatch in 1994 and has always been funded by a surcharge.
- Prior to 2008, the law stated 9-1-1 surcharges were only taxable on landline phone lines. The State of Michigan collected a surcharge on wireless phones and distributed it per capita to all counties.
- In 2008, Michigan passed new legislation to provide a stable funding source for 9-1-1 that would now put a surcharge on all devices that can call 9-1-1 (landlines, cell phones, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), On star, etc). The new law was enacted because families were eliminating landline phones and switching to cell phones. Further, VOIP was considered a computer device which also could not be taxed.
- Cell phones currently make up 60 percent of the calls that come into 9-1-1 centers.
- The 2008 law states that counties must have approval from the voters on a surcharge cap that the 9-1-1 centers will not exceed. Currently, Allegan County collects a surcharge of \$1.63. The surcharge was set in 2006 and covers strictly the operational costs of Allegan County 9-1-1.
- The cap on this ACCD renewal surcharge being requested will be set not to exceed \$2.80. This cap will remain in affect for the next five years.
- Surcharge can only cover expenses that are directly related to 9-1-1 and the services provided. The surcharge is CDDC's only revenue source; 9-1-1 does not receive any money from the Allegan County General Fund.
- If the cap is not approved by voters in November, the issue will go on the ballot again in February; which will cost another approximately \$50,000.
- Without the approval of the surcharge renewal either this November or lastly in February, ACCD will have enough fund balance to stay in operation for a short period and 9-1-1 services will begin to be cut. Eventually (most likely by the end of 2010) 9-1-1 would no longer exist in Allegan County.
- The following public safety agencies are also impacted by this new surcharge because ACCD serves as the "one stop" call center for all emergency services in Allegan County (except within the city limits of Holland, that is serviced by the Ottawa County Central Dispatch Authority). ACCD serves approximately 115,000 Allegan County, township, and municipality citizens.
 - 20 Fire Agencies
 - 8 Police Agencies
 - 5 Ambulance Stations