

What Are Fire District Taxes For?

North Tiverton Fire District - September 2025



The North Tiverton Fire District (NTFD) is a quasi-municipal water utility established in 1927, independent from the Town of Tiverton. NTFD is chartered by Rhode Island state law to provide safe, reliable drinking water and water for firefighting purposes. As part of this charter, the district has the authority to levy taxes.

What Do District Taxes Support?

District taxes fund the infrastructure, technology, and operations necessary to ensure clean, safe drinking water and fire protection for our community. These funds are used for:

System Operations & Maintenance:

- 3 active pumping stations
- 2-million-gallon elevated water tank
- 48.7 miles of water main, of which an estimated 40 miles are cement-lined ductile iron
- 431 fire hydrants

Capital Improvement Projects:

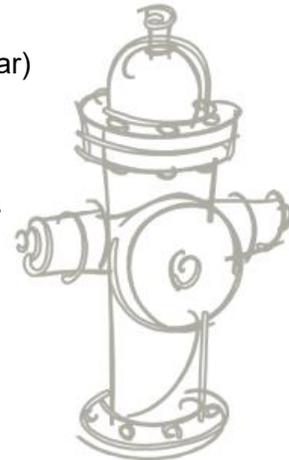
- Annual replacement of aging water main (approx. \$800,000/year)
- Cellular meter conversions (ongoing through 2030)
- System upgrades to maintain supply and meet demand
- SCADA system modernization for remote monitoring
- Refurbishment of stations, equipment, and treatment analyzers
- Replacement service vehicles and field tools

Technology Upgrades:

- Modern billing software and digital work order tracking
- Cybersecurity improvements
- EyeOnWater portal for leak detection and usage monitoring
- Remote backflow compliance tracking

Debt Service:

- NTFD carries long-term debt on major capital projects funded by USDA and RI Infrastructure Bank (RIIB). As of 2024, debt payments total \$297,000 annually.



How Are Taxes Calculated?

Taxes are based on the assessed land and building value as recorded with the Tiverton Tax Assessor. Eligible exemptions (Blind, Elderly, Low Income, Veteran and 100% Disabled) are applied. Commercial properties are also assessed based on tangible assets.

Taxes are assessed if:

- A fire hydrant is located within 500 feet of the property line, and
- NTFD water is available (regardless of private well use)

NTFD is a self-sustaining utility. Every tax dollar goes toward maintaining and improving water service for our community.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.