

# Understanding your Telephone Bill



Continue to follow along in Tele-Trends each month as we present a series of articles explaining the various fees, funds, taxes and surcharges that appear on your local, land-line phone bill each month.

Regulated local phone companies like Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. are required to collect fees and taxes for state and governmental agencies. This money we collect for these fees and taxes is passed on to the proper entities. Many of these fees are mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and some by state agencies.

Our last segment addressed the Texas Universal Service Fund.

*Previous issues of Tele-Trends may be viewed on-line at [www.poka.com](http://www.poka.com).*

## **E911 Service Fee and 911 Equalization Surcharge**

### **E911**

The E911 service fee on your phone bill is the primary funding source for 911 emergency services in your area. The Advisory Commission on State Emergency Communications, commonly called the 911 Commission, sets and authorizes the collection of this fee. Each region collects its own service fees, which can only be spent in that region. The fee in our region is 50-cents per month per telephone access line.

### **911 Equalization Surcharge**

The Advisory Commission on State Emergency Communications also sets and collects the 911 equalization surcharge, which is used to supplement the E911 service fee in regions that cannot collect enough service fees to maintain 911 emergency services. This surcharge is assessed to each customer receiving intrastate long distance service and is a percentage (.006%) of your monthly intrastate long distance charges.

Watch next month's Tele-trends for more information on

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