



Martinsville Fire & EMS

Press Release

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Martinsville's Fire ISO Rating Upgraded

Martinsville, VA... The Insurance Services Office (ISO) recently completed a Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey, which resulted in upgrading the City's PPC from a Class 04 to a Class 03, effective December 1, 2014.

"ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data using our Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). We then assign a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria," according to ISO's website.

"This is great news for us and everyone living and working in the City of Martinsville. The men and women of the Martinsville Fire & EMS Department, Martinsville & Henry County E-911 Center and Martinsville's Water Resources Department are to be commended on their combined efforts during this evaluation," said Fire Chief Kenneth Draper.

ISO's website states, "The PPC program recognizes the efforts of communities to provide fire protection services for citizens and property owners. A community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Insurance companies use PPC information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance — generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection. By offering economic benefits for communities that invest in their firefighting services, the program provides an additional incentive for improving and maintaining public fire protection."

"The most significant benefit of the PPC program is its effect on losses. Statistical data on insurance losses bears out the relationship between excellent fire protection — as measured by the PPC program — and low fire losses. PPC helps communities prepare to fight fires effectively," the website states.

There are three main components to the survey. The first is the effectiveness of the alarms and communication systems between the E-911 Center and the Fire & EMS Department. Second is the

availability and efficiency of the water supply system used by crews in fighting fires. This includes the City's fire hydrant. The third point of evaluation is the Fire & EMS Department itself.

A major component of the Department's score comes from the level of training of staff. Other aspects that are also considered in the evaluations include the number of fire engines and ladder trucks that are available to respond in the event of a fire emergency. Also taken into account is the maximum distance fire crews would be required to travel in order to respond to a fire call near the City's limits.

"In Virginia, there are 776 rated fire districts. After December 1st, we will be one of only 12 communities fortunate enough to have a Public Protection Classification rating of Class 3, and only 8 other communities will have a better rating than Martinsville," said Deputy Fire Chief Kris Shrader.