

Board Agenda Item
October 28, 2014

INFORMATION – 1

ISO evaluation of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Fire Suppression Capabilities

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department underwent an initial Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO) evaluation in 1984 resulting in a split rating, 03/09. The 03 corresponds to an urban/suburban environment whereas the 09 is based on the rural portion of Fairfax County. The numerical fire suppression capability rating scale ranges from 01 to 10. A lower rating correlates to a superior level or quality of fire suppression capability while a higher rating identifies a level of fire suppression capability meeting the service requirements of the area.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is proud to announce that ISO recently completed its analysis and re-evaluation of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided to the communities in Fairfax County. **Effective February 2015, the new Protection Classification (PPC) rating for Fairfax County, VA is 01/1Y.**

The 01 fire suppression rating for Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is the first fire department in the Commonwealth of Virginia to achieve the highest rating of a Class 01 for the urban and suburban areas of the county! The 1Y represents an 8b rating for more remote and rural areas of the county. The rating of 01 applies to properties within five road miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant. The second rating of 8b applies to properties within five road miles of a fire station but beyond 1,000 feet of a hydrant.

ISO's PPC Program plays an important role in the underwriting and calculation of premiums for residential, commercial, and industrial properties for insurance companies. Most U.S. insurers use PPC information as part of their decision making when deciding what business to write, coverages to offer, or premiums to charge. Each insurance company independently determines the premiums it charges its policyholders; however, most insurers use PPC classifications in doing so.

PPC is important to communities and fire departments alike. Communities whose PPC improves may receive lower prices while lower PPCs also provide fire departments with a valuable benchmark, and is used as a valuable tool when planning, budgeting, and justifying fire protection improvements. The ISO evaluation process certainly identified the return on investments made by Fairfax County in the Fire and Rescue Department over the years.

The citizens, residents, and visitors of Fairfax County, along with the personnel of the Fire and Rescue Department will all benefit from the recent ISO ratings and the investments that have been made over the years in fire suppression capabilities.

The ISO/PPC process is an ongoing quality improvement process that requires the County and the Fire and Rescue Department to continue maintaining and improving our emergency service delivery.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

STAFF:

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Jason R. Jenkins, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire and Rescue Department