The City of Federal Heights Fire Department Earns ISO Class 1 Community Rating

For Immediate Release:
The City of Federal Heights has achieved the distinction of being awarded a Class 1 Public Protection Classification rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO), an organization that independently evaluates municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. There are currently no other Class 1 communities in the state of Colorado. “The rankings are on a scale of 1 to 10 and for the community to receive a #1 is a big deal and we are very proud,” said City Manager Jacquie Halburnt. The new Class 1 rating went into effect on February 1, 2017. The public is invited to a Community Award Ceremony on Wednesday, March 1st at 6 p.m. at the Pinnacle Charter School located at 1001 W. 84th Avenue in Federal Heights.

This rating has been achieved by less than 1/4 of 1% of Fire Departments Nationwide. The ISO currently evaluates over 50,000 Fire Departments Nationwide with only 241 earning the Class 1 rating. This rating reflects the hard work and dedication of all the Federal Heights Firefighters and their commitment to save lives and property. In 2011, the department was awarded a Class 3 rating following the ISO evaluation. In 2012, the Mayor and City Council commissioned an ICMA study to analyze fire operations and the department spent the next two years implementing the recommendations.

Fire Chief Sean Ellis commented, “This recognition, while presented to the Fire Department, truly represents a collaborative effort within the City of Federal Heights as well as regional collaboration with our Mutual Aid Fire Departments.” Chief Ellis credits the members of the department for their hard work, dedication and commitment displayed every day. Manager Halburnt also recognized Police Chief Karl Wilmes for his efforts in the 911 Communication Center, Public Works Director Don Stahurski for the continued maintenance of the water system throughout the City, and the continuous support of Mayor Daniel Dick and the City Council.

The Fire Department's improved PPC Classification is a reflection of the City of Federal Heights commitment to provide quality Public Safety Services to the citizens of Federal Heights.
Fire Departments across the Nation are rated by the ISO to determine a PPC for individual Cities or Counties. The ISO Schedule develops a PPC number on a relative scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being the very best and 10 representing less than minimum recognized fire protection. Most U.S. Insurers of Homes and Business Property use the PPC in calculating premiums. According to ISO, in general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC. When the ISO evaluates a Fire Department’s capabilities it uses a system called the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) which employs nationally accepted standards developed by such organizations as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International. The FSRS considers three main areas of a community's fire suppression capabilities including Emergency Communications (911 Call Center), the Fire Department, and Water Supply. In addition, it includes a Community Risk Reduction section that recognizes community efforts to reduce losses through fire prevention, public fire safety education and fire investigation. Key elements considered when evaluating a Fire Department include Response Capabilities (Deployment Analysis) which includes adequate staffing of Fire Service Personnel on Engine Crews and Ladder Companies, Fire Station Distribution (Location and Coverage), Appropriate Apparatus and Equipment, Training, Water Supplies, Organizational Structure, Communications and Building/Fire Prevention Codes and their enforcement. According to ISO data, a community’s investment in firefighting services is a good predictor of future fire losses. Communities with excellent fire protection can expect less property damage and higher survival rates.

For more information on ISO and the current rating system please visit: http://www.isomitigation.com

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