

Williston, ND:

Williston Fire Department ISO rating improves to a Class 2

The City of Williston Fire Department has been named one of the top fire departments in the US. The Williston Fire Department is extremely proud to be among the top 2% of fire departments across the United States, according to recent figures released by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The ISO has upgraded the city's protection rating to a Class 2, which for the last 12+ years the department was rated as a 5 / 8b. The new ISO rating of 2 / 2y is based upon many factors which include water supply system, number of fire stations, personnel, the various types of equipment and response times, to name a few.

"This is a huge announcement not only for the fire department and city leadership but more importantly for the citizens of Williston" said Chief Catrambone.

Since Fire Chief Jason Catrambone was hired four years ago, he and the executive leadership of the department have worked tirelessly at improving the ISO rating, making it a top priority. He and the men and women of the Williston Fire Department would like to thank, first and foremost, Mayor Howard Klug and the Williston City Commission, for their support toward this endeavor. Without their vision and commitment this classification improvement might not have occurred.

"Williston's population has tripled over the last 10 years," said Mayor Klug. "Well over 2 billion dollars of new construction has provided housing and infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing city."

The vast infrastructure improvements included two new firehouses, a complete renovation of Station #1, upgrades to the EMS as well as fire apparatus, improved staffing and training.

ISO, through its Public Protection Classification Program (PPC), issues ratings to fire departments throughout the country based on the effectiveness of their fire protection services. The ISO rating is a numerical grading system and is one of the primary elements used by the insurance industry to develop premium rates for residential and commercial businesses. It analyzes data using a Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) and then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 (the best) to 10. The FSRS considers three main areas of the community's fire suppression capabilities; the Fire Department, Emergency communications (911 dispatch center), and water supply.

The Class 2 rating illustrates the excellent working relationship with the surrounding fire departments, City government, and 911. The Williston Fire Department would like to thank all of our mutual aid fire departments, water department, and 911 for their dedication, service, and assistance. This achievement would not have been possible without the cooperation and professionalism of these agencies.

FACT SHEET

What is the PPC program?

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 represents exemplary public protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

By classifying communities' ability to suppress fires, ISO helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training. And by securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services. ISO has extensive information on more than 44,000 fire-response jurisdictions.

How the PPCTM Program Works

The PPCTM program provides important, up-to-date information about municipal fire-protection services throughout the country. ISO's expert staff collects information about the quality of public fire protection in more than 44,000 fire districts across the United States. In each of those fire districts, ISO analyzes the relevant data and assigns a Public Protection Classification — a number from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents exemplary fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.

Virtually all U.S. insurers of homes and business property use ISO's Public Protection Classifications in calculating premiums. In general, the price of insurance in a community with a good PPC is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC, assuming all other factors are equal.

A community's PPC depends on:

- fire alarm and communication systems, including telephone systems, telephone lines, staffing, and dispatching systems
- the fire department, including equipment, staffing, training, and geographic distribution of fire companies
- the water supply system, including the condition and maintenance of hydrants, and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires

Split Classifications

When ISO develops a single Public Protection Classification (PPCTM) for a community, all of the community's properties receive that classification. In many communities, ISO develops a split classification (for example, 5/9). Generally, the first class, (Class 5 in the example) applies to properties within five road miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant. The second class (Class 9 in the example) applies to properties within five road miles of a fire station but beyond 1,000 feet of a hydrant. ISO generally assigns Class 10 to properties beyond five road miles.

Reference: <https://firechief.iso.com/FCWWeb/mitigation/ppc0001.jsp>

