

MEDIA RELEASE



HISTORIC
FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milissa Reiersen

Communications Manager
615.550.6629
milissa.reiersen@franklintn.gov

13 October 2015

City of Franklin Receives Top Fire Protection Rating

Franklin is one of 132 municipalities out of 48,754 nationwide to get this award

Franklin, TN –The City of Franklin has received the top rating for fire protection services, earning a Class 1 Public Protection Classification from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This makes Franklin one of only 132 cities out of 48,754 rated in the U.S. that have been awarded this classification, according to the ISO website.

The news was announced at a press conference on October 13 at Franklin Fire Station 6. ISO representative Marc Alley presented City of Franklin officials with a packet containing the city's new classification. Those from Franklin who spoke included Mayor Ken Moore, City Administrator Eric Stuckey, and Fire Chief Rocky Garzarek.

"The ISO rating reflects the high level of service the City of Franklin strives to provide to citizens and businesses every day," said City Administrator Eric Stuckey. "Very few cities in the nation achieve this rating, and I am extremely proud of our Fire Department under the leadership of Chief Rocky Garzarek working to make our city one of the best in the country. Improving fire protection not only makes our community a safer place to live, but from a business standpoint, it helps create opportunities and supports growth due to lower property insurance costs."

The City of Franklin previously had an ISO rating of Class 2. The new rating will go into effect on December 1, 2015.

Because water supply comprises 40 percent of the rating, Franklin Fire Chief Rocky Garzarek recognized the four water utilities that serve the City of Franklin for their contributions to the improved score. "We're grateful to the City of Franklin, HB&TS, Mallory Valley and Milcrofton water utilities for working so closely with us to achieve this rating," said Garzarek.

Insurance companies use a community's ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) to establish appropriate fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties. PPC grades incorporate nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association. They range from a Class 1 — which represents superior property fire protection, to Class 10, which indicates that the area's fire-suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.

-More-

MEDIA RELEASE



HISTORIC
FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milissa Reierson

Communications Manager
615.550.6629
milissa.reierson@franklintn.gov

The ISO review includes three separately evaluated categories, which are totaled to reach the final score:

- 1) **Fire Department: (50%)** Focuses on items such as engine, ladder or service companies, distribution of fire stations and fire companies, equipment carried on apparatus, pumping capacity, reserve apparatus, department staffing and training and community risk reduction.
- 2) **Water Supply System: (40%)** Assesses the water supply a community uses for fire suppression, including hydrant size, type, and installation, as well as the inspection frequency and condition of fire hydrants.
- 3) **Fire Alarm and Communications Systems: (10%)** Assesses the community's ability to handle and dispatch fire alarms.

Franklin's ISO evaluation was performed under a new grading schedule that now offers additional credit to departments that proactively work to reduce the occurrence of fire and the loss sustained when fires occur. Franklin received additional points for its fire prevention efforts, including code adoption and enforcement, public education and fire investigations.

The fire department also received maximum credit for its use of the Incident Management System. Another boost in the score came from the opening of Station 7 at the Williamson County Ag Expo Park this year.

This is the third time the City of Franklin's fire protection rating has improved since Garzarek became fire chief in 2004. The score was lowered to Class 3 from Class 4 in 2005 and again improved to Class 2 in 2009.

Garzarek pointed out that the ISO grade is for fire protection services only. It does not take into account the many other services the Franklin Fire Department provides, such as emergency medical services, rescue operations and hazardous materials response.

###