

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Charleston Fire Department Awarded Class 1 ISO Rating

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Charleston, SC (June 9th, 2015): The Charleston Fire Department is proud to announce the department has been awarded a Class 1 rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO), an organization that independently evaluates municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. ISO analyzes the data using its Fire Suppression Rating Schedule and then assigns a rating number. The ISO Class 1 rating is the highest rating possible and has been achieved by only approximately 90 fire departments nationwide. The department was previously a Class 3 rating.

“The Charleston Fire Department is very proud that our work is being recognized with a Class 1 rating,” said Fire Chief Karen Brack. “We consider this a testament to the hard work and contributions everyone in our organization has put in to reducing fire loss through firefighting and fire prevention education. This wouldn’t be possible without the support and commitment to public safety from Mayor Riley and City Council.”

The ISO ratings process involves a periodic, detailed analysis of all fire department operations, including fire suppression capabilities, community risk reduction and fire prevention efforts, available equipment, and the distribution of emergency response vehicles. The evaluation includes a review of key supporting elements and partnerships such as those with the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch for 911 services and the available water supply and hydrant system provided by the Charleston Water System and the Saint Johns Water Company.

The program provides an objective nationwide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training and provides a tool for insurance companies to measure the expected performance and capabilities of the areas fire response forces. Insurance companies use rating information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance, generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection. “We want to thank our partners that have been critical to the success of the department. This is a collaborative effort between many agencies to provide superior service for the residents of Charleston,” added Chief Brack.

Portions of the City of Charleston will receive alternate ratings if the property is located more than 5 road miles from a fire station or do not have adequate fire hydrant coverage. City leadership is already working to establish a new station in the Cainhoy area to improve the rating and will continue to evaluate needed improvements throughout the community to strengthen fire protection services.

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