

Press Release

Fire Protection Ratings Improve in Spanish Fort

Spanish Fort Fire Rescue Improves ISO Town Class Rating

- **Spanish Fort, AL:** The Spanish Fort Fire Rescue Department recently received notice from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), the agency that rates the effectiveness of components of the fire response system for a given community, informing them that their rating would improve. The Department completed the survey in early May 2013 and received the results in October 2013. The Department was previously rated at a 5 / 9 and improved two classes to a 3 / 9, one of only 49 departments in the State of Alabama to have such a rating.
- The survey conducted by ISO looks at three distinct areas: 911, water systems and the fire department. The 911 Center is graded on their proficiency in receiving and handling emergency phone calls. The water system is graded on their ability to provide sufficient water throughout the community for extinguishing fires and the overall care and maintenance of the water distribution system including fire hydrants. The Fire Department is graded on fire trucks and equipment, personnel, training, facilities and pre incident planning.
- The Fire Department began preparing records and documentation for the survey almost five years ago. Maps were created and updated to show water systems, response areas, and city limits. The water system spent a great deal of time and money having the entire system mapped which included GPS coordinates for each hydrant and valve in the system. The information was also included on the mapping. The Department, with funding from the City of Spanish Fort, was able to purchase needed equipment, provide maintenance on equipment and fire hydrants and purchase training props to improve training firefighters receive.
- The split rating of 3 / 9 means that homes and businesses that are within five road miles of a fire station and within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant will receive an ISO Town Class 3 rating. Those within five road miles but over 1000 feet of a fire hydrant will receive an ISO Town Class 9 rating. Homes or businesses over five miles from a fire station are considered an ISO Class 10.

For Immediate Release

- The amount of savings for each homeowner or business will vary depending on their individual insurance carrier. The majority of insurance companies use the ISO Town Class in their rating formula but it varies from company to company.
- The new Town Class Rating will be effective February 1, 2014. Homeowners and Businesses should contact their Insurance Agents to ensure they receive credit for the new rating.