

**PRESS
RELEASE**

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RE: Iona-McGregor Fire District's ISO Rating Improved

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Iona-McGregor Fire Protection & Rescue Service District has been notified by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) that the fire protection rating for the District will be improving from a Class 4 to a Class 2. The ISO is a national insurance engineering service organization that assigns a public protection classification (PPC) to jurisdictions based on fire agency services and the rating is a metric that is used by insurance companies nationally as a standard for their premiums.

The Insurance Service Office conducts periodic reviews of fire departments and the services they provide. A review usually occurs every 5-10 years, unless something economically occurs in an area to raise concern or a department requests it at their own expense. The last review for the IMFD was 7 years ago when we achieved a rating of a 4. The scale for the ISO rating is from 1-10 with a 1 being the best and a 10 indicating no fire protection.

Historically, the IMFD has been rated a 5 until 15 years ago when we improved to a 4. "We have made significant changes in the District to improve our rating. I would have been thrilled to achieve a 3. It is very humbling to achieve a 2 and it's owed to the boots on the floor, the Prevention Division, the Training Division, and the Administrative Staff for making this incredible leap a reality," says Deputy Chief Chad Jorgensen who heads up the collection of information for ISO.



Chief Jeffrey Berndt says, "To achieve this Class 2 rating is truly a testament to the continued hard work of the members of IMFD. Whether it is training, responding to emergencies, public education, or inspections, the push for excellence by our staff is what makes our District one of the best in Florida, and I dare say the Nation." Rightfully said, because according to the information from ISO, of the 47,250 fire departments across the Nation, less than 650 obtain a rating of Class 2 or better. In Florida, 49 out of the 682 departments, or 7% received a Class 1 or 2. Chief Berndt continues, "To say that we are in the top percent of fire departments across the Country and in Florida is truly an amazing feeling. I am proud of the men and women of the Iona McGregor Fire District. We also owe gratitude to our Board of Commissioners and our residents for allowing us the funding to provide such excellent service."

The Class 2 rating will have a small effect on homeowners' insurance rates but a significant impact on commercial rates for business and industry, something that can be a tremendous relief for our business owners in the District. Some of the Class 2 requirements are to have buildings located within five miles of a fire station and to have a fire hydrant located within 1,000 feet. Some other requirements that are considered are staffing, fire training, how often apparatus are maintained and tested, personnel training, public education, emergency dispatching and communications, and the equipment on engines. Medical emergencies are not considered.

For more information you can contact Deputy Chief Chad Jorgensen at 239-433-0660 or at jorgensen@ionafire.com .

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