



For Immediate Release:

City of Newnan improves ISO rating from Class 4 to Class 3

Newnan's fire protection improves in latest evaluation by insurance-industry advisory firm

Newnan, GA (September 4, 2013) - The fire-protection services of Newnan, as rated by an insurance industry advisory company, has improved to Class 3 from Class 4.

The classification by Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO), known as the Public Protection Classification (PPC) program, assesses the fire-protection efforts in a particular community. 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 its Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). The company then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire 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.

"I am very proud of our fire department personnel for their hard work and dedication and excited about the benefits this brings to our citizens. While our new classification may lead to reduced property insurance rates, it is our ability to respond and potentially saves lives that is the most important," said Newnan City Manager Cleatus Phillips.

Newnan becomes one of only 56 fire departments in Georgia to achieve a Class 3 rating according to the latest information from ISO. Presently, there is no Class 1 fire department in Georgia. There are 20 Class 2 departments and 126 Class 4 departments. Of the 1,038 fire departments to undergo evaluation in Georgia, 25% are ranked as Class 9 fire departments according to ISO. Nationwide, only 5.6% of fire departments are class 3 or better.

“Our ability to improve our PPC classification was positively influenced by modernization of our emergency fleet, training and dedication of our firemen, and updating recordkeeping, radio and reporting systems,” said Newnan Fire Chief David Whitley.

Since the late 1990's , the City has enhanced its Fire Department by using SPLOST funds and Impact Fees building two additional fire stations, purchasing engine pumpers and aerial platforms, improving the fire training facility, and upgrading the communication radio system to 700 MGZ. In addition, the City has increased manpower from 22 to 52 employees in the past 14 years. Also, in the past 5 years the Fire Department has modernized records and reporting system with updated computer software. This allows the Fire Department's chain of command and all personnel to maintain records vital to the ISO evaluation.

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