

Kearney Fire & Rescue Protection District

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PRESS RELEASE

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Kearney Fire & Rescue Protection District Improves to ISO Class 3 Rating

The Kearney Fire & Rescue Protection District is pleased to announce effective May 1, 2017, they have achieved a Class 3 rating from the ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) program. Of approximately 46,000 rated fire departments in the United States, less than 5,000 or 10.8% are rated Class 3 or better, of the 1,740 in the state of Missouri, 123 or 7% are Class 3 or better.

The district's previous rating was a Class 4 that was attained in 2005 and has been a work in progress since the district was established in August of 1990 beginning as a Class 7 in the City and a Class 9 in the rural area. The rating is for properties within five road miles of the fire station or other neighboring jurisdictions that we have automatic aid from. A new classification has been established for properties five to seven miles from the station as a 10W that recognizes our water shuttle if fire hydrants are not available.

The ISO is an independent company serving insurance companies, communities, fire departments, insurance regulators and others by providing information about risk. Each department receives a rating from 1 to 10 (1 being the highest) based on fire protection features for small to average size buildings.

ISO's staff collects data and evaluates communities nation-wide on their structural fire suppression capabilities. Evaluation criteria includes a determination of the theoretical amount of water necessary for fire suppression purposes; emergency reporting, telecommunicators and dispatching systems; fire department equipment, staffing, training, geographic distribution of fire companies, operational considerations and community risk reduction; and water supply, including inspection and flow testing of hydrants, alternative water supply operations and an evaluation of the amount of available water compared to the amount needed to suppress fire.

According to Retired Chief Larry Pratt, and current Chief Kevin Pratt the support of the Fire District Board of Directors and the public support of the district has been an integral part of continually improving our classifications, specifically the \$.25 levy increase in 2004 and the successful passage of the \$3,500,000 bond issue in 2010. This allowed for the additional career staffing and the vehicle and equipment upgrades.

