

Media Release



Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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In early 2015, the Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue voluntarily requested an external evaluation of the services and capabilities by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). As a result, the Division received a Class 1 rating from ISO. A Class 1 rating is the highest score that a fire protection community can achieve. The Division's previous rating was a Class 4.

The Insurance Services Office evaluates fire protection efforts, in detail, in cities, counties, and districts throughout the nation. The performance-based evaluation, with a rating scale of 1-10, examines every detail within four comprehensive areas. These areas include emergency communications, overall fire department performance, community water supply, and community risk reduction. The prestigious class 1 rating is held by only **four** other departments in the Commonwealth. Fire Chief David Layman stated, "This rating is the product of many dedicated men and women creating and delivering service improvements to the community. This team effort wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Division members and city officials."

The class 1 rating will go into effect on April 1st, 2015, and may qualify homeowners and businesses for lower property insurance premiums. Since most insurance companies use ISO ratings to establish their rates, a lower ISO rating may pay dividends to many in the Hampton community. It makes sense that the better your fire protection, the less risk insurance companies must assume.

ISO has reviewed over 48,000 fire departments across the country of which only 148 have received the class 1 rating. Hampton is the newest in Virginia, joining Fairfax, Charlottesville, Newport News, and Henrico County. Out of 765 fire protection agencies in Virginia, these five departments represent .06 percent that holds a class 1 rating.

The Division provides fire protection, emergency medical services, and community risk reduction services to more than 140,000 citizens over 52 square miles of land and 84 square miles of water. The Division's 298 full-time members and 100 volunteers provide services out of 11 fire stations and responded to 26,500 calls for service in 2014.

The Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue is proud of this accomplishment and what it means to our citizens and business owners. We are confident that they are receiving the highest level of service and care that they deserve. The class 1 rating emphasizes our motto, "Citizens first, because we care."

Please visit www.hampton.gov/fire to learn more about our smoke alarm program for residents. Follow us on Facebook at Hampton Fire.

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Citizens First Because WE Care!