



PRESSRELEASE

Menlo Park Fire Protection District 170 Middlefield Rd Menlo Park, CA 94025 650-688-8400 Fax: 650-323-9129

For Immediate Release

Date: April 22, 2017
Contact: Harold Schapelhouman, Fire Chief
Phone: (650)380-1006 Cellular

Fire District Rated a Class 2 Fire Agency

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District was recently rated a Class 2 Fire agency under the Insurance Services Organizations (ISO) Publication Protection Classification (PPC) system after a review that began six months ago and culminated with a presentation and report to the Fire Board asking them to accept the report and rating last week.

Nationwide, ISO evaluates and grades 46,042 fire agencies using a newly updated Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) every four years. Agencies are assigned as a 1 - 10 classification rating, with 1 being considered superior and a 2 being very good.

By classifying a community's ability to suppress fires, ISO helps Fire Agencies evaluate their actual readiness, preparedness, planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment and training but most importantly it supplies insurance companies statistical data for underwriting Fire Insurance. Most insurers use the PPC classifications for underwriting and calculating premiums for residential, commercial and industrial properties.

"The Fire District maintaining a class 2 rating is good for residential and business owners because it affects the cost of insurance they purchase. Nationwide only 241 fire agencies have earned a class 1 rating and 1,324 were rated as a class 2 Fire Agency. That places the Fire District in the top 3.42 percent of all fire agencies rated by ISO in the United States and that's something to be proud of" Fire Chief Schapelhouman said.

The Fire District has also noted various areas of improvement needed to help maintain and strengthen its class 2 rating and what would be needed to attain a class 1 rating. Those areas include dispatch protocols, aerial ladder truck locations, staffing, training records, pre-fire planning, inspecting fire hydrants, improved code enforcement, investigator certifications and improved water supply.

The Chief said "this is only one standard of measurement that we use to constantly evaluate our performance and capability, but it can be an economically impactful one for those who own property in the community"

The Fire District provides Fire and Emergency Services to the Town of Atherton, Cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, unincorporated areas of San Mateo County and on contract to the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory.