



PORT JERVIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Deputy Chief
James W. Rohner, Jr.

Deputy Chief
Jeffrey S. Rhoades

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 26 January 2017

It is with extreme pleasure that the Port Jervis Fire Department announces that it has attained a Class 3 rating from the Insurance Service Office, Inc. (ISO). This rating will become effective on May 1st, 2017.

COMPARISONS:	<u>Orange County</u>	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Nationwide</u>
Class 1 Department	0	5	178
Class 2 Department	0	43	1,164
**** Class 3 Department	10	278	3,265
Class 4 Department	26	566	6,749
Class 5 Department	8	584	9,464
Class 6 Department	2	222	8,392
Class 7 Department	0	0	4,484
Class 8 Department	0	8	1,250
Class 8B Department	4	175	1,552
Class 9 Department	5	506	10,377
Class 10 Department	0	36	1,757
TOTAL	55	2,423	48,632

ISO is a leading source of information about property/casualty insurance risk. For a broad spectrum of commercial and personal lines of insurance, they provide statistical, actuarial, underwriting, and claims data; policy language; information about specific locations; fraud-identification tools; consulting services; and information for marketing, loss control, and premium audit. They are an advisory organization, and insurers may use their information, modify it, or not use it, as they see fit.

ISO collects information useful in many aspects of insurance underwriting. That information includes evaluations of public fire protection, flood risk, and the adoption and enforcement of building codes in individual communities. Information on municipal services helps the communities with their efforts to manage and mitigate their risk. They provide these independent evaluations as a service to the insurance industry and do not charge a fee to the communities.

Through the Public Protection Classification (PPC) program, ISO evaluates municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. A community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. So insurance companies use PPC information to help establish fair premiums for

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fire insurance — generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection. Many communities use the PPC as a benchmark for measuring the effectiveness of their fire-protection services.

ISO has established a rating scale from 1 to 10 in relation to fire protection. Only 178 fire departments nationwide are currently rated as a Class 1 department, which is the highest rating available. Unfortunately there are 1,757 communities that have received the lowest rating of 10, which is indicative of no fire protection at all.

A consistent set of guidelines is used by ISO to evaluate a fire department and their ratings are based on many factors. Almost every fire department in the nation is evaluated. Some factors that help to determine a rating level includes the number of personnel available to respond at any given time, the training level of personnel, the amount of water the fire department can get to a fire, the amount, type and quality of equipment used, and the documentation of pertinent records. The purpose of ISO is to provide insurance companies a uniform system on which to base risk. An insurance company knowing the capabilities of a local fire department is important and in many cases, is used as a tool to evaluate the cost of premiums, especially in a commercial setting.

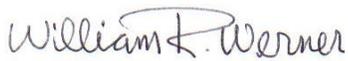
In 2013, when the Department was last evaluated and rated as a Class 4 department, Assistant Chief Dominic M. Cicalese took on the task and spearhead the Department's efforts to reach this monumental achievement. During this recent evaluation, the City of Port Jervis received a score of 71.39 out of a maximum 105.5, with 70.00 to 79.99 being needed to earn a Class 3 rating. Only 9.4% of the fire departments nationwide, and 13.4% of the fire department statewide, have a Class 3 rating or better. Orange County on the other hand fairs well, with 18.1% of the Departments having a Class 3 rating, our highest rating level for the County.

The Department earned 29.25 points out of a maximum of 50 points in evaluations of Engine Companies, Reserve Pumpers, Pump Capacity, Ladder Service, Reserve Ladder and Service Trucks, Deployment Analysis, Company Personnel, Training, and Operational Considerations. We already began focusing on our weakness found in this evaluation in an effort to improve ourselves and the services that we provide to our City.

The Port Jervis Fire Department would also like to thank Mayor Kelly B. Decker, Public Works Director John R. Farr, and ISO Senior Field Representative Robert Shoemaker, in helping us to achieve this goal.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.isomitigation.com/> Questions should be referred to PortJervisFire@gmail.com

PORT JERVIS FIRE DEPARTMENT,



William R. Werner

Department Secretary