



The Ashley River Fire Department
8045 Dorchester Road
North Charleston, SC 29418

Contact Chief Scott Inabinet.
Telephone 843.552.2425
Email arfdchief@gmail.com
Website www.ashleyriverfire.com

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ASHLEY RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES CLASS 1 ISO RATING

“Good News for Residents and Businesses”

Dorchester County, SC, May 24, 2016– The Ashley River Fire Department was recently awarded a Class 1 rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The new designation goes into effect August 1, 2016 and was announced at the County Council Budget meeting in St George Monday night.

“We knew we had worked hard, but it was still a surprise when we received the rating” said Chief Scott Inabinet. “In 2015 there were only 132 Fire Departments out of approximately 48,000 evaluations nationwide that were rated Class 1. That’s less than 1% to receive the highest rating. Department members devoted countless hours of preparation to make sure that we were prepared for the inspection. It’s also important to note that this was a community effort as the local water systems and dispatch centers are included in the overall rating.”

The Insurance Services Office evaluates fire protection efforts throughout the country. They rate agencies on a scale of 1–10, with "1" being the best. 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.

Chief Inabinet added that residents of the Fire District should check with their insurance companies after August 1 to see if the new rating lowers their rates.

“Insurance rates are generally lower with better ISO ratings,” he said. “We encourage residents and business owners to see if there’s a change in their annual premium. We anticipate that commercial and retail properties will definitely see a difference.”

If you would like more information on the rating or the ARFD, please contact Chief Scott Inabinet.