



Western Springs Fire Department Rated ISO Class 2

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services was evaluated in October by the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO). ISO is an independent company that serves insurance companies, communities, fire departments, insurance regulators, and others by providing information about risk.

ISO's expert staff collects information about fire suppression capabilities, water delivery systems, fire prevention activities, and emergency dispatch facilities in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data and assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC)—a number from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents an exemplary program and Class 10 indicates that the area's public protection does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. The department had last been rated in 2012, at which time it scored a 77.0, which equated to a Class 3 rating.

ISO'S PPC program evaluates communities according to a uniform set of criteria, incorporating nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association. A community PPC depends on:

- Needed fire flows, which are representative building locations used to determine the theoretical amount of water necessary for fire suppression.
- Receiving and handling fire alarms, including telephone systems, telephone lines, staffing, and dispatch systems.
- Fire department, including equipment, staffing, training, and geographic distribution of fire companies.
- Water supply, including condition and maintenance of hydrants, alternate water supply operations, and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires up to 3,500 gpm.

The evaluation process on site took two days, but preparations began months earlier as a collaborative effort between Municipal Services, the police department, and the fire department. All of these departments were subject to evaluation. The Village received notification from ISO in a letter dated December 21, 2018, that on this evaluation, the department received a score of 87.24, improving to a Class 2 rating. In 2017, there were over 43,000 departments rated, and less than 4% were rated as a Class 2 or above.

The department works cooperatively with neighboring fire departments to provide the most efficient and expedient emergency responses both inside the Village and outside Village boundaries. That cooperation, both in training and emergency response, is critical to and reflected in this rating. The Western Springs Department of Fire and Emergency Services is thankful for those partnerships, specifically with the members of the LaGrange and Hinsdale Fire Departments, and the Pleasantview Fire Protection District.