

Rutland-Dundee Townships Fire Protection District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rutland-Dundee Fire Protection District Earns ISO 2 Rating

Rutland-Dundee Fire Protection District Fire Chief Richard Thomas announced that the District's Fire Department has been awarded a 2 / 10 rating by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). The ISO rating system is the nationwide standard used by property and casualty insurance companies to determine the rates at which premiums are set for insuring residential, commercial and industrial properties throughout the District. The 2 rating awarded to Rutland-Dundee has been achieved by only 2.76% of fire departments throughout the nation, based on 2015 numbers. Of the 48,632 fire departments rated by ISO, only 1,343 have received a rating of 2 or better. According to Chief Thomas, this will have a significantly favorable effect on homeowners' and business owners' insurance rates as of January 1, 2017.

Chief Thomas explained that the ISO rating is based on a wide variety of factors that assess how a fire department's capabilities curtail the risk of loss by fire, explosion or other casualty. ISO evaluates the level of training received by department personnel, the type and condition of firefighting equipment and the reliability and availability of a water supply for firefighting purposes. Dispatching systems, command and control characteristics and communication capabilities are also assessed. Chief Thomas added that an additional factor that has a tremendous effect on the overall rating is the measurement of response times. This depends upon the placement and availability of firefighting personnel and the location and staging of firehouses and equipment in relation to the structures they are expected to protect.

"Our firefighters and officers have worked hard to address all of the intricacies associated with the rating system and to identify how our resources can best be used to assure the biggest return on the investment made by taxpayers," Thomas said. "This rating is also dependent on

the performance of organizations beyond our Department. A big factor in this rating was the commitment of the Village of Sleepy and the Village of Gilberts to upgrade their water systems. Also, the Quadcom 911 Board of Director's determination to keep our dispatching system at the state-of-the-art level made a large impact on our rating," Thomas said. "I am very proud of how our Board of Trustees has worked to create the environment in which all of these pieces could come together. I couldn't be more grateful for the dedication shown by all of our officers and firefighters, as well as all of our governmental agencies in bringing all of these factors together. In just seven short years, we were able to elevate our rating from a 4, 5, 6 to a 2. This only happens with a well-coordinated, highly focused effort. I can't wait for our residents and businesses to reap the benefits of these efforts in the form of greatly reduced insurance rates," Thomas said. Chief Thomas noted that the 10 rating is for any properties over 5 road miles from the District's stations, of which there are no known properties that fall into that category.

For more information, contact

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