

Chatham Fire Department

10 Hoffman Street
Chatham, NY 12037-1329
Office of the Chief

Press Release

For Immediate Release – 7/20/20

The Village of Chatham and the fire protection districts protected by the Chatham Fire Department receive improved ISO ratings recently.

In the Spring of 2020, the Chatham Fire Department completed its quadra-annual assessment and audit from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The ISO classification rating for Chatham improved by moving from Class 4 to Class 3/3Y.

The Village of Chatham and the Chatham Fire Department are proud to announce the recent review by the Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO) resulted in an improved rating from Class 4 to Class 3/3Y. The classification, known as the Public Protection Classification (PPC) program, assesses the fire-protection efforts in a community. Effective September 1, 2020, the jurisdiction's improved rating score may help residents and businesses within the Chatham Fire Protection Districts achieve lower insurance costs. Property owners are urged to contact their insurance company regarding this new ISO rating. A copy of the official letter from ISO is on the Village's website.

ISO conducts field visits in order to collect information on municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States and then analyzes the relevant data using its Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). The rating is based on four factors – the Fire Department's ability to receive and respond to fire alarms; review of the fire department's equipment, personnel and training; the water supply system; and communication. ISO then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents superior property fire protection and Class 10 indicates the area's fire suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria. Insurance companies then use this ISO rating for underwriting and calculating premiums for residential, commercial and industrial properties.

Chatham has the highest PPC classification in Columbia County. There are only 3,583 fire departments with a Class 3 rating in the country and only 423 with a Class 3 or higher in New York State. Chatham Fire Department is now in the top 9% of rated fire departments in the country.

Mayor John Howe: *“This is a very proud moment for the CFD, the Village and the community. This was a group effort. The Village's support for infrastructure improvements, such as the water system; to the DPW's efforts in maintaining the hydrant system, to the Building Inspector's office; and ultimately to the tremendous efforts of our Volunteer Fire Department members and officers; all working together is what got us to this accomplishment. Because of the work by our ISO project team, there is a potential for community financial savings in insurance premiums.”*

Chief Eric Barnes: *“The men and women of the CFD care deeply about how their work can improve the lives of the people in and around Chatham. Our volunteers spend hundreds of hours training, responding and maintaining equipment, to ensure we are operating at the highest level possible. The ISO rating is a report card of sorts. Chatham just scored an A (if you will) and it validates the commitment of the volunteers.. I can not express how proud we are to know that all of the hard work over the past 4 years has paid off. We hope our community can benefit from the work put in by our volunteers”*

ISO is the leading supplier of data and analytics for the property/casualty insurance industry. If you have questions about the new ISO classification or the rating process, please contact the Chatham Fire Chief Eric Barnes at 518-392-2751 or ejb58005@aol.com.

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