



Marina Fire Department

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Marina Receives Improved ISO Rating

The City of Marina has received official notification from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), Inc. that the City's Fire Department has obtained a Class 3/3Y rating for its structural fire suppression delivery system which is a significant improvement. Prior to the separation of police and fire service, the City's ISO rating was a Class 5/9.

The Insurance Service Office rating plays an important role in the underwriting process and pricing structure used by insurance companies. ISO is the leading supplier of data and analytics for the property/casualty insurance industry. Most insurers use ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC) number for underwriting and calculating premiums for residential, commercial and industrial properties. ISO evaluates each community according to a uniform set of criteria as defined in the nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the American Water Works Association. A community's PPC number depends on several factors:

- Needed Fire Flows, which are representative building locations used to determine the theoretical amount of water necessary for fire suppression purposes.
- Receiving and Handling Fire Alarms, including telephone systems, telephone lines, staffing and dispatching systems.
- Fire Department, including equipment, staffing, training and geographic distribution of fire companies.
- Water Supply, including condition and maintenance of hydrants, alternative 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 gallons per minute.

The ISO has ten rating classifications with 1 being the highest and 10 being the lowest. The City of Marina was last audited by ISO in 1996. At that time a single fire engine was staffed by one public safety officer who relied on the three public safety officers assigned to police patrol duties and a core of volunteers to form an engine company. Today the Fire Department is staffed with a minimum of three career firefighters on an engine or split into a two-piece company with two career firefighters on two engines when all personnel are available and a chief officer. In addition, a cadre of reserve firefighters augments staffing when available.

The credit received in 1996 was 51.96% and the score received in 2014 was 71.19% – an overall improvement of approximately 37%.

The successful completion of the ISO review process is a significant milestone for the City of Marina and our community. The improved marks received reflect greatly on the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Marina Fire Department. The credit for achieving this great rating belongs to all of our staff. I am proud of the hard work and dedication to excellence that our firefighters exhibit every day considering resource constraints.

The Fire Department worked to build upon relationships with other fire departments. Automatic aid agreements are in place with Presidio of Monterey Fire Department and the City of Seaside Fire Department for all confirmed first alarm structure fires within Marina. These agreements are key to the improved rating and I am grateful for their support.

However, there are still areas that need improvement to include the need to fill current vacancies within the fire department and to staff a second engine full time. The City hopes to use the Public Protection Classification Report to further improve on areas that will enhance services to the community and improve our ability to reciprocate more in automatic / mutual aid. We're working as efficiently and effectively as possible, and the Class 3/3Y rating is indicative of that.

The new Public Protection Classification will go into affect October 1, 2014. The Class 3/3Y rating may result in cost savings in insurance premiums for insurable properties within the City of Marina.