



For Immediate Release
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September 16, 2014

Stratford's insurance rating upgraded

STRATFORD – A recent evaluation of Stratford's fire suppression capabilities and equipment has resulted in an upgrade of the town's rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Stratford's new Public Protection Classification will be upgraded to 03/3Y as of Nov. 1.

Mayor John A. Harkins credited members of the Town Council and the fire department for working with his administration to achieve the ISO rating upgrade, which will ultimately benefit all Stratford residents.

"Since I have been Mayor, we have strived for better municipal services and delivery of those services for Stratford taxpayers," Harkins said. "The Town Council has been supportive of funding equipment and training, while the leadership of Chief Robert McGrath and his team at the fire department has worked in unison with our firefighters to achieve this accomplishment which will benefit our town."

"Public safety and the protection of lives and property is paramount with all of our emergency services. The changes made over the last few years have made Stratford safer, as indicated by the upgrading of the town's ISO rating."

The new rating could mean savings for residents on their homeowners' insurance policies, according to William Guerrero, Senior VP of USI Insurance Services of Connecticut.

Guerrero said residents should be encouraged to contact their insurance representative to determine whether the improvement to the Town's ISO fire rating will benefit them. While this improvement does not guarantee a savings to every homeowner, a savings of (approximately) \$50 per year is not unrealistic depending upon the fire rating used by the resident's homeowners' insurance company.

The ISO evaluation of communities' fire suppression systems and capabilities includes the following four components:

- 1) **Needed Fire Flows**, which are representative building locations used to determine the theoretical amount of water necessary for fire suppression purposes.
- 2) **Emergency Communications**, including emergency reporting, telecommunicators, and dispatching systems.
- 3) **Fire Department**, including equipment, staffing, training, geographic distribution of fire companies, operational considerations, and community risk reduction.
- 4) **Water Supply**, including inspection and flow testing 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 gpm (gallons per minute).