



News Release

GALLATIN RATED IN TOP 5% IN FIRE PROTECTION ACROSS TENNESSEE

ISO Rating Reflects Improvements in Equipment, Training and Communications

Gallatin, TN - The City of Gallatin's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating has improved from a Class 4 to Class 2/2x according to a letter from the Insurance Services Office, a private company that measures a community's fire suppression system and assigns a numerical grade. The rating provides a benchmark to help fire departments and other public officials measure the effectiveness of their efforts and plan for improvements.

Scores range from 1 to 10, with the lower score being the best service rating. Only 34 fire departments in the state of Tennessee have achieved an ISO Class 2 rating, and only seven achieved the top rating. This distinction places Gallatin's fire services in the top five percent in the state. The new ISO rating will be effective 7/1/2021.

"Gallatin has positioned ourselves with one of the best fire services in the state," said Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown. "Residents and businesses alike benefit from this distinction in safety, but also property insurance rates could decrease with a lower ISO rating."

An improved ISO rating can result in lowered premiums for home, property, and commercial building insurance, as a home or business that is less likely to be severely damaged or destroyed by fire costs less to insure. Insurance rates can also vary based on the distance a structure is within a fire station and fire hydrant. The improved rating also serves to attract new development and businesses to our area.

Shift Captain Charles Johnson says some of the factors attributed to the improved ISO rating include the construction of a new fire station, new staffing, training, a new radio tower, the new Sumner County Emergency Communications Center and the city's water supply and distribution systems were all factors that affected the score.

"This is a case where being number two is a tremendous win for our GFD personnel who work so hard to keep our residents and visitors safe," said Johnson. "This rating shows there is still room for improvement that can translate into shorter response times to protect property and saves lives as well as being one of the best departments in the state."

The Insurance Services Office was formed in 1971 as an advisory and rating organization for the property and casualty insurance industry. The organization collects statistical data and promulgates rating information on behalf of insurance companies.