



St. Andrews Fire Department Media Release

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**Contact: Interim Chief Ken Fischer
O: 843-556-8951**

St. Andrews Fire Department Achieves Highest Rating Possible for Fire Protection Services

Class 1 rating puts department in nation's top 1 percent; designation could cut insurance rates for property owners

Charleston, SC – St. Andrews Fire Department (SAFD) in the St. Andrews Public Service District (PSD) has received a Class 1 Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The Class 1 rating means business owners, residents, and visitors to Charleston can count on superior fire protection. It is also one of the factors used to determine fire insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses.

There are 601 departments in state of South Carolina; of those, 15 received the Class 1 rating, which puts SAFD in the top 2 percent in the state and top 1 percent in the nation. This is a first for SAFD; ISO's last assessment was in 2008 resulting in SAFD maintaining their Class 3 rating.

The ISO classifies fire districts according to emergency communication, first alarm response, initial attack to minimize potential loss, and water supply, to tell how well a fire department is able to handle both residential and commercial structural fires in the district. The PPC classification ranges from 1, denoting superior fire protection, to 10, which indicates almost no fire protection is available.

The Class 1 rating could also mean more money in St. Andrews PSD's residents and business owners pockets. Fire insurance premiums are based on the quality of service and fire protection available. The top rating means St. Andrews PSD property owners can get the lowest premium possible on that area of insurance.

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St. Andrews Fire Department (SAFD), a division of St. Andrews Public Service District, provides fire, rescue, and first responder services to the unincorporated area of West Ashley. The operational staff is divided into a ladder company, rescue company, and three engine companies operating out of four fire stations. Through a commitment of automatic aid, SAFD assists surrounding fire departments in meeting their missions on a daily basis.