



MEDIA RELEASE

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The Lakeland Fire Department Retains Public Protection Classification (PPC) Rating of 1, the Highest Achievable Level of Fire Suppression

Lakeland, FL – The Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) is proud to announce that after a reevaluation of the department’s Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification (PPC) score that took place in June 2020, the department has retained its ISO PPC score of a 1. The department has been rated a 1 since 2015.

The score plays a role in how insurance companies - including the largest in the nation - figure rates and decision-making regarding who they underwrite for insurance and the prices to charge for personal or commercial property insurance. It also impacts economic development.

The score, based on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 representing the highest level of fire suppression standards and 10 indicating no recognized fire protection, is produced by ISO through an extensive evaluation process of the City of Lakeland’s fire department, emergency communications, and water supply. LFD services, response times, equipment, personnel, training efforts, community risk reduction, and more are evaluated to develop a final score. That score in turn provides insurers and the fire department a comprehensive measure to rate the quality of the fire protection they provide. In Lakeland’s case, its PPC score of a 1 indicates that the Lakeland Fire Department provides the highest level of fire suppression service. PPC also provides fire departments with a valuable benchmark and is used by many departments as a tool when planning, budgeting and justifying fire protection improvements.

Of the ISO rated communities in Florida, only 40 have a level 1 classification placing Lakeland in the top percentile in quality and fire protection of fire departments in the state. Out of nearly 50,000 organized fire departments in the nation, only 393 have an ISO PPC score of 1, including the Lakeland Fire Department.

“The men and women of the Lakeland Fire Department worked very hard to achieve this accomplishment even in times of fiscal limitations where the department has been asked to do more with less. This is the first time in the history of the department, in the ISO era, that we have accomplished to reach the highest level of public protection classification and maintain it for such an extended period - over five years! This



translates to very real and positive outcomes for the citizens and businesses that call Lakeland home.” said Training Chief John Almskog, who was instrumental in coordinating the review along with Fire Chief Douglas E. Riley and others in his leadership team.

More about the Lakeland Fire Department:

The Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) was established as a career-department in 1916. The Lakeland Fire Department has an Insurance Service Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification 1, the highest achievable rating. The department has seven stations serving approximately 110,000+ people in the City of Lakeland. The department has 179 employees, of which 156 are emergency response personnel. In 2019, the department responded to over 25,900 service calls in its 84 square-mile response area, which includes the city limits as well as portions of unincorporated Lakeland.

The department offers a wide range of services which includes heavy rescue, technical rescue, fire prevention, fire code enforcement, fire investigation, aircraft rescue and firefighting, and in-house fleet maintenance; all in addition to outstanding fire suppression and emergency medical response. The Lakeland Fire Department is also passionate about being an active participant in its community and consistently giving back through philanthropic efforts and through non-emergency services like community outreach and preventative public education.

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