



## **Press Release**

In order to establish Sachse's Fire Suppression Rating, Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), the leading supplier of statistical, underwriting, and actuarial information for the property/casualty insurance industry, recently completed a Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey of the fire suppression services available to the citizens of Sachse. As you may know, most insurers use the PPC classification for underwriting and calculating premiums for residential, commercial, and industrial properties.

**Sachse Fire Rescue, City Council, and City Staff are proud to announce that the City's rating improved from a 6 to a 3.**

What does this mean to the citizens and business owners of Sachse? The ISO classification rating can range from Class 1, exemplary public protection, to a Class 10, less than minimum recognized protection. The ISO rating classifies a community's ability to suppress fires. Insurers may use the new classification for new policies or renewals occurring on or after the publication date. ISO distributes the revised classification to participating insurance companies in sufficient time for them to update their automated policy-renewal systems. The new rating should mean a reduction in your insurance premiums for your property. Homeowners and business owners may contact their insurance agent/company with specific questions.

When a fire department changes its fire-protection services or makes other adjustments, ISO reevaluates the community's fire-service delivery systems to ensure that the rating reflects those changes. ISO responds to requests from municipal officials to resurvey communities that have experienced significant change. Sachse Fire Rescue and City staff worked diligently to improve the major components of the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule, including the three major features: fire alarm and communication system; fire department; and water supply system.

***Fire Alarm and Communication System (10% of rating):*** ISO field representatives evaluate the communications center, focusing on the number of operators, the telephone service, number of lines in the center, the listing of emergency numbers, the dispatch circuits and how the communications center notifies firefighters about the location of the emergency.

***Fire Department (50% of rating):*** ISO checks that the pumps on the fire apparatus are tested regularly and inventories each engine company's nozzles, hoses, breathing apparatus, and other equipment, checks the number and types of ladders, including ground and aerial ladders and other service equipment such as salvage covers, saws, and smoke ejectors. ISO also reviews fire department records to check: type and extent of training provided to fire-company personnel; number of people who participate in training; firefighter response to emergencies; and maintenance and testing of the fire department's equipment.

***Water Supply System (40% of rating):*** ISO determines if sufficient water beyond the community's maximum daily consumption is available for fire suppression. It checks all components of the water-supply system, including pumps, storage, and filtration. ISO observes fire-flow tests to determine the rate of flow through the water mains, counts the distribution of fire hydrants up to 1,000 feet, determines the ratio of the amount of available water and the amount needed to suppress fires on properties, considers size, type, and installation of hydrants, hydrant maintenance, and hydrant condition.

Upgrading the City's ISO rating has been a priority for City Council, staff and Fire Rescue personnel for several years. Indicative of this is the recent hiring of full-time fire department personnel including a Fire Chief, EMS Coordinator, Fire Inspector, 20 paid personnel (an average of 2.84 on duty) and 14 volunteers whose average response to calls is 9.13 personnel. Construction of the second fire station along with the addition of a snorkel/ladder truck and a second ambulance enhanced the department's service to the City while reducing its on-scene response time. Upgrading the City's water supply has also been a priority. Increasing the water supply by adding a 5-million-gallon above-ground water storage facility, replacing old, smaller pipe with larger PVC water lines throughout older neighborhoods improved Sachse's infrastructure to meet normal as well as emergency service demands.

Sachse received the following ratings:

***Fire Alarm and Communication System*** - 7.20 out of 10.00

***Fire Department*** - 29.71 out of 50.00

***Water Supply System*** - 37.36 out of 40.00

TOTAL - 72.19 out of a possible 100 points

***This puts Sachse in the Class 3 range and may equate to a 10.25% reduction in property owners' insurance premiums.***