

Colorado River Fire Rescue Earns an ISO Class Rating of 3/8b

Colorado River Fire Rescue (CRFR), formerly Burning Mountains Fire Protection District and Rifle Fire Protection District recently completed an evaluation of their services provided, which was conducted by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). CRFR, now serving the communities of Rifle, Silt, and New Castle, CO, received an ISO class of 3, down considerably from the previous rating class 5/9/10 in Rifle and class 6/10 in Silt and New Castle. A decrease in ISO classification typically equates to a decrease in insurance premiums to residents and business owners in that fire protection district. ISO rates fire protection services on a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being the best and 10 being the poorest.

A little History: Back in October of 2011, Burning Mountains Fire Protection District (BMFPD), Rifle Fire Protection District (RFPD), Glenwood Rural Fire Protection District, and the City of Glenwood Springs Fire Department conducted an agency evaluation and cooperative efforts study. Throughout this process, BMFPD and RFPD continued strategically with the recommendation (see full ESCi report at www.crfr.us) of overarching strategy 4 Formation of a Fire Authority and ultimately, overarching Strategy 5 the formation of a single Fire Protection District, now known as Colorado River Fire Protection District aka CRFR, of which they are in the final stages of completion and will enjoy the benefits of a single consolidated Fire Protection District toward the end of this year 2014.

The consolidation process provided vast benefits to the new organization and their constituents; one of which they are considering a huge success is the lowering of their ISO classification. Fire Insurance rates are based on a host of factors, including the Fire Department's ISO rating. Most insurance companies will look very closely at the Fire Department's ISO rating when calculating the premium for a residential and business property. This lower ISO rating also exudes the enhanced level of service and depth of resources CRFR can now provide thanks to the efforts and components of the newly formed Fire District: This decreased rating was achieved by the collaboration and commitment to service as provided by CRFR's membership and partnerships, as part of the most recent merger.

ISO's public protection classification evaluates communities according to a uniform set of criteria, incorporating nationally recognized standards developed by the national Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association. The community's classification depends on the following:

- **Needed Fire Flow** (representative building locations used to determine theoretical amount of necessary for fire suppression purposes.)
- **Emergency Communications** (emergency reporting, telecommunications, and dispatching systems.)
- **Fire Department** (equipment, staffing, training, geographic distribution of fire companies, operational considerations, and community risk reduction.)
- **Water Supply** (inspection and flow testing of hydrants, alternative water supply operations, evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires up to 3,500 gallons per minute.)

CRFR is pleased to announce their new ISO classification and will continue to evaluate areas of efficiency and improvement. CRFR would like to thank the community members, organizations, and internal members for their commitment to excellence, diligence, and cooperation during this important process. Please remember to consult with you insurance provider to review the District's new ISO rating and see if it may make a difference for you.