



News release

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Cayce Public Safety improves ISO rating *Change recognizes city for improving fire protection; means lower insurance premiums for citizens, business owners.*

The City of Cayce's department of public safety has received some good news that will pay off for citizens and businesses in the form of lower fire insurance rates. That good news is the fact that Cayce has achieved a new and lower Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 4, improved from the previous rating of 5, for its firefighting capabilities.

Cayce earned the improved rating based on a review of several parts of its public safety efforts including dispatch operations and 911 service, fire department training and equipment, and water availability and storage. ISO, the organization that issued the rating, evaluates municipal fire protection programs across the U.S. and is a leading source of information about insurance risks.

ISO ratings, which range from a high of 1 to a low of 10, are designed to help communities evaluate their fire protection services and are used by the insurance industry to establish rates.

Basically, for business and property owners, the lower the ISO rating in a community, the lower the insurance rate and cost of insurance will be. While many variables are at

play, the average savings based on Cayce's improved rating would be about \$100 to \$200 per year for a \$100,000 home, according to Director of Cayce's Department of Public Safety Charles McNair.

Chief McNair notes that the improved ISO rating is the direct result of investments the city has made over the last several years to protect its citizens. For example, in the last two years, Cayce has added a new ladder truck, a pumper, improved air packs and breathing apparatus, high-level rescue equipment, and hazardous materials equipment. McNair adds that Cayce's new fire gear has several special, life-saving features such as tanks that enable officers to share air with fire victims and radio-equipped masks that mean fire fighters never lose contact with command, even inside a burning building.

"Our ISO rating shows that Cayce Department of Public Safety is improving our ability to provide services to our citizens and businesses," McNair says. "In the past, before the recent upgrades, we had limited equipment to do our jobs, even though our people were well-trained. Now, with the right equipment, we are continually advancing to provide better service and we have the ability to keep our first responders safer in the line of duty." McNair adds that while moving to a 4 is a great first step, he hopes to make additional changes that will allow Cayce to continue dropping its ISO rating.

"Achievement of this improved ISO rating is excellent news for Cayce," says Mayor Elise Partin. "We are constantly working to save our residents and business owners money and constantly improving the fire protection in our community. This makes all of us very proud."

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