

HO-HO-KUS FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE:

Chief Matthew Menzel of the Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Fire Department has announced that the Department's Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) has improved to Class 3, effective April 1, 2016.

This new rating places the Department in the top 6% of fire departments in the nation and the top 15% in the State of New Jersey.

In advance of the recent ISO revaluation, countless hours of preparation were invested by the Department's line officers and members in conjunction with DPW Superintendent Jeff Pattman. In order to achieve the higher rating, a significant undertaking was required to enhance several key facets of the Department's operations such as increasing training hours and improving documentation and record keeping.

ISO is a third party, independent agency that evaluates a municipality's fire protection capabilities. The results are rated on a national scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best and highest. According to ISO, its Public Protection Classification Program (PPCP) plays an important role in an insurance company's underwriting process. Most U.S. insurers report that the PPC information is used in their decision-making process when deciding what businesses to cover, what coverages to offer or prices to charge for personal or commercial property insurance. With a community's Class 3 rating, many insurance providers give a discount on annual insurance premiums for residences and businesses.

The rating process and eventual PPC rating was the result of a thorough evaluation of the Borough's fire protection capabilities based on the following criteria:

- Emergency communications systems, including facilities for the public to report fires, staffing, training and facilities for dispatching the fire department
- Fire Department operations, including equipment, staffing, training and geographic deployment of fire companies
- The water supply system, including the inspection and flow testing of fire hydrants and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires
- Community efforts to reduce the risk of fire, including fire prevention codes and enforcement, public fire safety education and fire investigation programs

The Class 3 rating marks an improvement from a Class 4 rating which the Department received during its last formal evaluation in 1996.