



Lane Fire Authority

P.O. Box 398, Veneta, Oregon 97487
541.935.2226
www.lanefire.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 16, 2015
Contact: Chief Terry Ney (541) 935-2226 terryney@lanefire.org

Lane Fire Authority improves Public Protection Classifications with ISO *New insurance ratings take effect April 1, 2016*

[Veneta, Ore.] Lane Fire Authority saw a significant improvement in its Public Protection Classification (PPC) ratings with ISO, a leading source of information about property and casualty insurance risk. This means property owners served by the fire authority are likely to save money on their insurance premiums when the new ratings take effect on April 1, 2016.

The fire authority credits this improvement to a planned merger between Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue. The two fire agencies are operating under a special agreement as Lane Fire Authority to share costs and improve emergency services for area families and businesses. Voters likely will be asked to finalize the merger during the November 2016 General Election.

“Working together has improved emergency coverage and services for our community,” said Fire Chief Terry Ney. “Now these improvements will help the people we serve save money on their insurance policies, as well.”

Service improvements from the partnership helped with the new PPC ratings. For example, as Lane Fire Authority, the agency can respond to almost all its own emergency calls. Before, the individual fire districts relied more on mutual aid from other agencies which often took longer. Working together as Lane Fire Authority, the partnership has staffed one more fire station full-time and has additional response units ready to serve in an emergency.

These improvements helped the fire authority’s PPC rating improve from a 5 or 4 to a 3 in areas with hydrants. Properties located more than 1,000 feet from a hydrant, but within five miles of a fire station improved from an 8B to a 4. All of Lane Fire Authority’s 14 stations are recognized as accredited by the ISO. Property located more than five miles but less than seven miles from a station are categorized as 10W, which is a new rating category.

Lane Fire Authority has been working to improve its PPC for area families and businesses since it formed three years ago, dedicating a significant portion of staff time and resources to collect data needed for the project. ISO looks at four areas of fire suppression when making its determination: fire department, emergency communications, water supply, and community risk reduction. These are standards established by the National Fire Protection Association for rating fire agencies across the country.

Lane Fire Authority plans to have an interactive feature on its web site to help insurance agents and property owners find their PPC sometime this spring.

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ISO Community Hazard Mitigation actively works with fire departments, building departments, water suppliers, and municipalities with its Public Protection Classification, Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule, water outreach, and emergency communication center review programs. ISO provides statistical, actuarial, underwriting, and claims data; policy language; information about specific locations; fraud-identification tools; consulting services; and information for marketing, loss control, and premium audit is for a broad spectrum of commercial and personal lines of insurance. The ultimate goal of ISO is safer communities.

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Lane Fire Authority provides fire, life safety and emergency medical services (EMS) to 36,000 residents over 276 square miles in the Willamette Valley. This new partnership is actually two fire districts – Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue – operating under a special agreement since 2012 that saves money and improves emergency services for the community. Our career and volunteer emergency personnel respond to over 4,700 emergency calls per year, 85% of which are for EMS.



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