

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Tabernacle Township Insurance Services Organization (ISO)
Rating improves from Class 9 to Class 4**

The Tabernacle Board of Fire Commissioners and the Medford Farms Fire Company are proud to report that the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating for Tabernacle Township has improved from a Class 9 to Class 4 for all areas of Tabernacle within 5 miles of a recognized fire station. This accounts for 98% of the occupied structures when including our automatic aid with surrounding townships. This is a huge accomplishment and our understanding from ISO this is the 1st such rating in New Jersey for an area without a municipal water supply using the alternative water supply method with water shuttles. The improved rating means Tabernacle is in the top 15% of all fire companies in the United States of which over 44,000 are rated. **More importantly, this improved rating will result in a savings of approximately \$125 for the average home and more substantial savings for businesses on their fire insurance premiums.**

During 2008 the Medford Farms Fire Company had a widespread review of our structural fire suppression delivery system conducted by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). ISO collects information on municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each community, ISO analyzes the relevant data using a Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). ISO then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria. By classifying communities' ability to suppress fires, ISO helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training. Also, by securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services. ISO has extensive information on more than 44,000 fire-response jurisdictions.

Several years ago the Tabernacle Board of Fire Commissioners approached our residents to approve the purchase of a Quint (combination pumper and ladder truck) in an effort to improve our ISO rating. That purchase was just one piece of the equation. We did not falter in our effort to make this rating improvement a reality. As part of this effort, we improved training, recordkeeping, preventive maintenance, and made strategic equipment purchases. We partnered with other fire companies in the Pinelands region to certify our water delivery capabilities. In June, 2008 we conducted a water delivery certification exercise witnessed by ISO where we successfully delivered 1,608 gallons per minute (gpm) for a two-hour duration. This exercise was key to improving our rating as we do not have a public water supply system and water delivery accounts for 40% of the score. The exercise was a huge success and far exceeded our goal of 1,200 gpm and far exceeded ISOs expectations for an area without hydrants. As we look forward we will need to locate an apparatus toward the eastern part of the township to extend our 5 mile radius.

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