



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2605 HWY 414 •Travelers Rest, South Carolina 29690
Phone: 864-895-8855 • Fax: 864-895-2295
Website: www.tigervillefd.com

Contact:

Jarrold Parker, Public Information Coordinator
E-mail: jparker@tigervillefd.com,
Phone: (864) 770-5029

Russell Ledford, Chief
E-mail: chief@tigervillefd.com
Phone: (864)895-8855 or (864)770-5656

Tigerville Fire Department holds public meetings to share the future direction to maintain its commitment to saving lives and protecting property.

Travelers Rest, S.C. (Tuesday, April 06, 2010, 12:00 PM) – On March 11th, 2010 the Board of Commissioners of Tigerville Fire Department passed a draft of a ten year capital improvement plan. After working with a financial advisor who is familiar with the operations of fire districts in Greenville County the department was able draft a ten year plan on how it will keep up the unfunded mandates passed down by the regulations agencies within the fire service as well as continue to improve the fire services provided to the community. The Board of Commissioners and Chief Ledford will be holding to two public community meetings to present the plan and allow the community to ask questions. The two meetings will be held; Saturday, April 10th, 2010 at 9:00 am at Tigerville Fire Department. The second meeting will be held in the Cafeteria at Mountain View Elementary School at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 13th, 2010.

Tigerville Fire Department was rated at an ISO classification of 6/9 for approximately twenty years until March of 2009, since the latest ISO inspection the department is now rated at a classification of 6.

Chief Ledford said; “My initial plan in 2008 when I took office was to prepare for an ISO inspection within three years. Due to the length of time from the last inspection ISO notified my department that an inspection had been scheduled for March of 2009. Due to the effort of my personnel and volunteers we did as much of a three year preparation in about four months, which resulted in the new rating.”

Many factors are factored into determining a departments ISO classification: Receiving and handling of fire alarms, the fire department and equipment/apparatus, water supply of the protection district and the department’s divergence, which is the difference between the quality of the fire department and the water supply.

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With the department rated at a split classification of 6/9 before March of 2009, the factors that contributed to the previous split classification versus the flat classification of 6 now; were mainly due to the water supply availability in the district. In order to reduce the classification for the areas in our district with little to no hydrants the department had to demonstrate the ability to adequately supply water through water shuttle operations and mutual aid agreements. Tigerville Fire and Glassy Mountain Fire departments have a mutual aid agreement in place, which is a two way agreement.

Tigerville Fire Department is only one of thirteen fire departments that Greenville County EMS provides dispatch services. Meaning, when a call for emergency services in our district is placed on 911 it is routed to the Greenville County Sheriff's Office and then the caller is transferred to Greenville County EMS. After the information is gathered by the call taker the department is alerted of the call. In 2009 the average response time for Tigerville Fire Department from dispatched to on the scene was five minutes and seventeen seconds. Chief Ledford says "one of my goals for 2010 is to reduce the department response time by one percent. I plan on doing this by improving truck preparations, my personnel completing map and driving training of the district."

It is the one of the departments' goals to continue to make changes to lower the ISO classification. Some of the changes that have already been implemented are annual hydrant and hose testing, better record keeping, and standard operating procedures were implemented to aid in the smooth working of the department both on and off the emergency scene. Chief Ledford wants the community to know how the ISO classification of being lowered from a 6/9 to a 6 will effect them personally. In essence the department is justifying the expense of upgrading the equipment as well as letting the community know that they are receiving better fire protection than before.

With the ISO classification lowering it is allowing the property owners in the fire protection area to be eligible for lower insurance premiums. Chief Ledford, urges all property owners to contact their insurance company and update them on the lower ISO classification for their property. If the insurance company needs verification you can contact the station for a verification form to be sent over to the insurance company.

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