



**March 22, 2018**



Fire Chief Don Lombardi

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## **West Metro Awarded #1 ISO Status**

*New Insurance Rating Will Save Residents, Businesses Millions*

**Lakewood, CO** – West Metro Fire Rescue has been awarded a Class 1 ISO rating, the highest level recognized nationally by the Insurance Services Office. The rating is a gauge of a fire agency's ability to serve its residents and business owners, and is awarded based on a number of key factors- including staffing, apparatus, training, 911 communications, and water supply. For business or homeowners in West Metro's district, the #1 rating is expected to result in millions of dollars in savings on property insurance.

*"Our new ISO rating was driven by West Metro's commitment to our district- to always be looking for opportunities to improve our service,"* said Don Lombardi, Fire Chief, West Metro Fire Rescue. *"The new rating is validation for our firefighters and staff that what we've been doing is creating a safer community."*

Only 0.5% of approximately 46,000 fire agencies across the country earn a Class 1 rating. And, only 60 of the 239 internationally-accredited fire agencies have a Class 1 rating. Many insurance companies use the ratings to set property coverage rates. In West Metro's district, a typical homeowner, with a home valued at \$300,000, could see annual insurance savings of around \$200. The new rating will save business owners approximately 3% to 5% on commercial insurance premiums depending on building construction.

The ISO system ranks for a Class 1 (the best) to Class 10, which is no fire coverage at all. The Insurance Services Office evaluates more than 44,000 fire-response agencies nationwide, about every 10 years. Its independent rating is based on a number of factors that relate to the overall effectiveness of fire protection services.

Insurance companies will be informed of West Metro's new rating, beginning May 1. The new rating goes into effect on August 1.

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**About West Metro Fire Rescue:**

West Metro Fire Rescue is a full-service, all-hazard, internationally-accredited fire and rescue agency, serving nearly 280,000 residents in the cities and towns of Lakewood, Morrison, Golden, Wheat Ridge and Edgewater. The District also serves sections of Jefferson and Douglas County and unincorporated Littleton, Colorado.

WMFR is committed to providing professional fire protection, emergency medical services, life safety and community service with a vision that shapes the future.

Visit us at [www.westmetrofire.org](http://www.westmetrofire.org).