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Fire Chief Don Lombardi  
West Metro Fire Rescue

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## Moody's Upgrades West Metro Credit Rating

*Cites Conservative Budgeting, Strong Management Team*

**Lakewood, CO** – Moody's Investors Service has upgraded West Metro's credit rating to Aaa- the highest rating, citing the fire district's conservative budgeting practices and strong management team. The rating affects approximately \$26 million of outstanding general obligation unlimited tax debt.

According to Moody's, the upgraded rating reflects West Metro's "sizable and growing tax base," driven by favorable economic conditions in the Denver metro area. The rating also takes into consideration the fire district's minimal debt and manageable pension burden.

"Wisely using the resources we're given is key to West Metro's sound financial footing," said Fire Chief Don Lombardi, West Metro Fire Rescue. "Like other fire agencies, we've faced challenges, but, our staff and Board of Directors have kept us moving ahead."

Moody's is forecasting a stable outlook for West Metro, noting that the current economic conditions will "continue to spur growth in taxable values," and that West Metro's reserves will remain in line with historical levels "due to the district's budgeting practices, implemented by a sophisticated management team."

"Always looking to the future and relying on our strategic plan is how we forecast the needs of our residents and businesses," said Lombardi. "We know that as the district continues to grow, there will be more demand for our services. It's our duty to make sure we're able to answer those emergency calls."

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**About West Metro Fire Rescue:**

West Metro Fire Rescue is an ISO 1, internationally accredited, full-service, all-hazard, fire and rescue agency. We serve 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).