



Press Release

****For Immediate Release ****

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For more information contact:

Fire Chief James Haner

623-974-2321

Sun City Fire District Receives ISO grading of 3

Sun City, AZ – The Sun City Fire District has received official notification from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) of an improvement in the Fire Department's Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating. The fire department's new Class 3 rating goes into effect on October 1, 2010. Previously rated as a Class 4/9 department in 1989 the new rating demonstrates the Fire Department Board of Directors and Fire Department official's commitment to providing exemplary fire protection to the communities of Sun City, Youngtown and Citrus Point.

The Insurance Services Office has rated more than 44,000 fire departments nationwide. The new rating puts Sun City Fire in the top 5% of all rated departments nationwide!

The Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification rating is used by insurance companies in marketing, underwriting, and to help establish fair premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance (ISO, 2010). ISO has demonstrated a distinct relationship between excellent fire protection and low fire losses in a community.

In March 2009 a representative from the ISO spent the better part of a week in our community with Fire, Water and Dispatch officials to complete the evaluation. When evaluating a fire department's ability to respond to and mitigate fire emergencies in a community the ISO looks at three main areas. ISO assigns levels of credits to each evaluation criteria in developing the final PPC.

ISO first looks at how well the fire department is Receiving and Handling Fire Alarms. The Sun City Fire Department contracts with the City of Phoenix Fire Department for all communications and dispatch functions. The City of Phoenix is home to a world class dispatch and communications center that handles all fire and emergency medical 9-1-1 incident taking and dispatch functions for the Sun City Fire Department as well as nearly 30 other local jurisdictions. Sun City Fire was the 5th department to join the Regional Automatic Aid Consortium.

1. Receiving and Handling Fire Alarms
 - a. Credit for Telephone Service
 - b. Credit for Operators
 - c. Credit for Dispatch Circuits

ISO then looks at the Water Supply system in the community(s) and rates not only the effectiveness of the system to deliver the proper fire flow but also the fire department's ability to utilize the system. Arizona American Water owns and maintains the water supply system in the fire district. Many new hydrants have been installed in the 21 years since our last ISO grading substantially improving the system. Much work remains to be done to improve fire flow in certain parts of the community. The Town of Youngtown is currently considering fire flow improvements in Youngtown that will help the fire department operate more efficiently on large fires.

1. Water Supply
 - a. Credit for Supply System
 - b. Credit for Hydrants
 - c. Credit for Inspection and Condition

Finally ISO looks at the fire department itself to evaluate its ability to respond in a timely manner and to utilize proper firefighting methodologies to rapidly extinguish fires when they occur. Distribution of fire apparatus in the community, the number and type of apparatus as well as reserve apparatus, staffing levels, equipment and training hours and records are all taken into consideration.

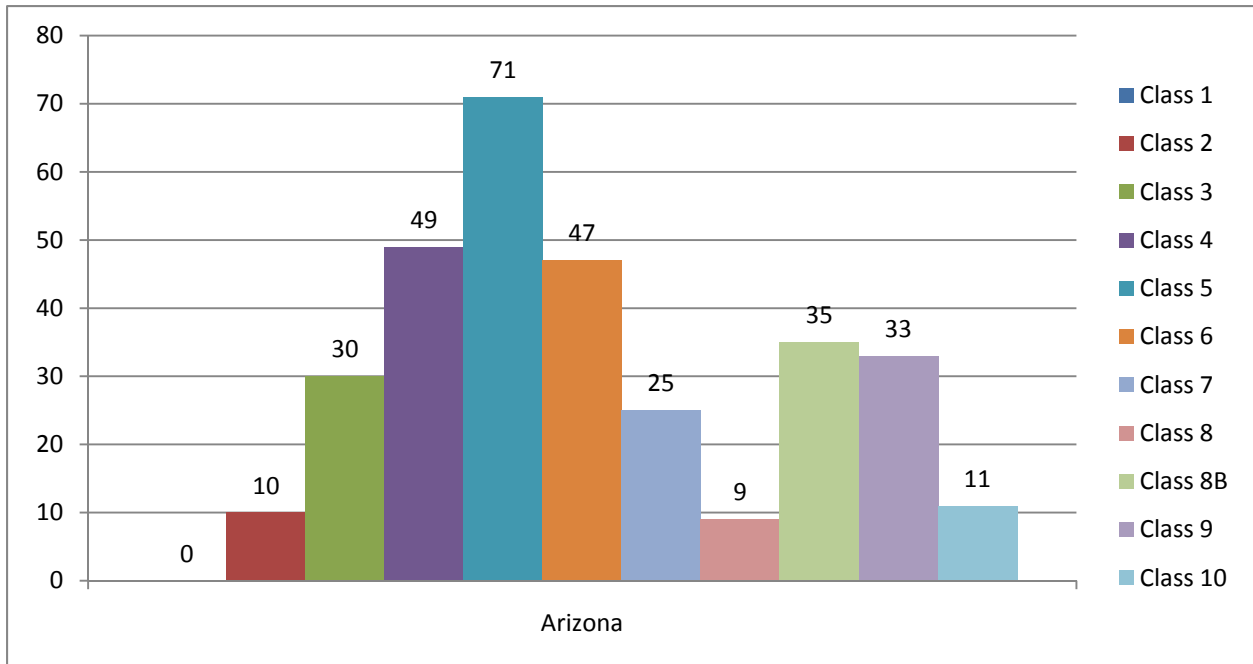
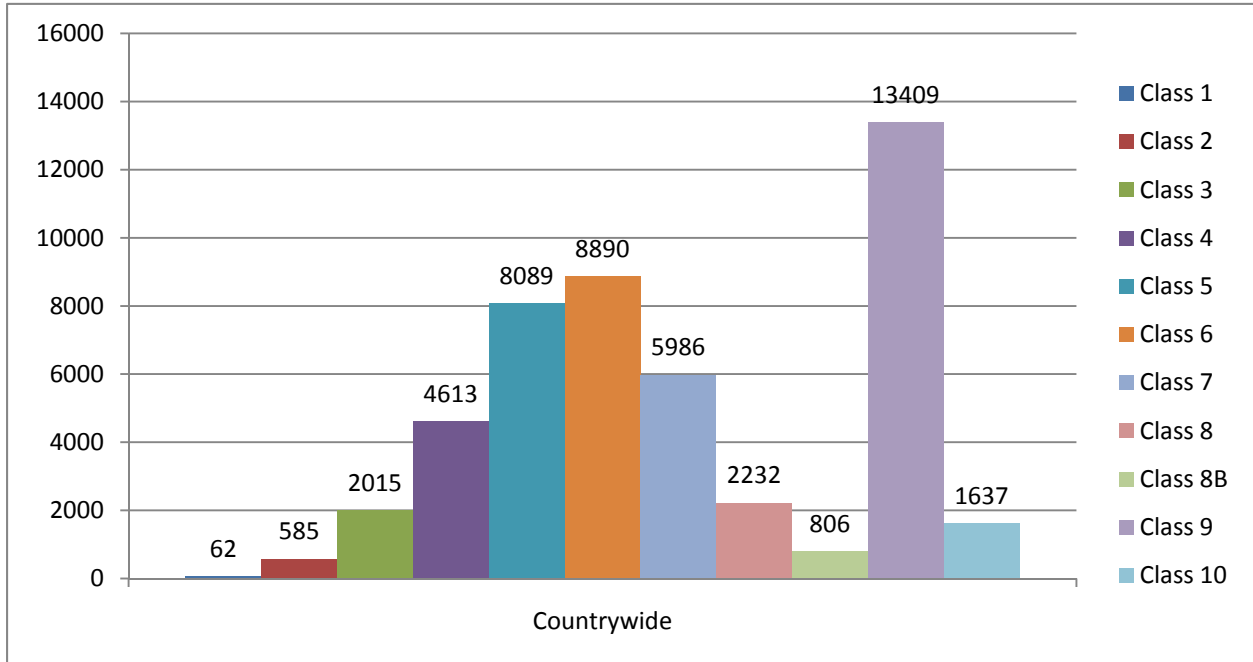
1. Fire Department
 - a. Credit for Engine Companies
 - b. Credit for Reserve Pumpers
 - c. Credit for Pumper Capacity
 - d. Credit for Ladder Service
 - e. Credit for Reserve Ladder and Service Trucks
 - f. Credit for Distribution
 - g. Credit for Company Personnel
 - h. Credit for Training

The Sun City Fire Department is proud of its new rating and will continue to provide high levels of fire protection, prevention, education and emergency medical services to the community in a fiscally responsible manner. Please contact fire administration for more information on the services we provide to the community. Note our new office hours: Monday – Thursday 7:00am – 5:00pm.

Fire Administration 623-974-2321 or www.suncityfire.com

Smoke Alarms – Lock Boxes – CPR/CCC Classes – Child Safety Seats – Home Safety Surveys

Distribution of Public Protection Classification Numbers



Charts reproduced from ISO Public Protection Classification Summary Report 2010