
For Immediate Release

Date: July 14, 2017

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Fuquay-Varina Fire Department Receives New Rating After Inspection

State Officials Award a Rating of 2 (Municipal) and 4 (Rural)

The North Carolina Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey announced that the Fuquay-Varina Municipal Fire District has completed its routine inspection and received a rating of 2 in municipal areas and 4 in the rural district, effective October 1, 2017.

The upgrade to Class 2 from a Class 4 Public Protection Classification within Town Limits will result in decreases in insurance premiums for commercial occupancies covered by the Public Protection Classification System. The improvement from a Class 9 Public Protection Classification to a Class 4 Public Protection Classification in the rural district will result in insurance premium benefits for both residences and businesses. A classification of 1 to 10 is assigned based upon the results of the inspection. A rating of 1 indicates the highest level of fire protection. The Fuquay-Varina Municipal Fire District is one of only 16 fire districts in North Carolina (out of over 1,500 districts) to be awarded a rating of 2.

Fuquay-Varina Mayor Pro Tem Blake Massengill said, "This is a major accomplishment by the fire department which continues to improve and provide quality fire and rescue services to our community."

The inspection, conducted by officials with the Department of Insurance Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), is required on a regular basis as part of the North Carolina Response Rating System (NCRRS). Among other things, the routine inspections look for proper staffing levels, sufficient equipment and proper maintenance of equipment, communications capabilities and availability of a water source.

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Tony Mauldin for the department's performance and for the hard work of all the department members," said Commissioner Causey. "The citizens within the Town and the Furina Fire District should rest easy knowing they have a fine group of firefighters protecting them and their property in case of an emergency."

The Fuquay-Varina Fire Department not only also serves areas within the Town, but also the Furina Rural District that lies outside of the Town's corporate limits. The Furina Rural District upgraded rating of 4 applies to structures within five miles of a fire station within the district, while properties between five and six miles from a fire station within the district receive a rating of 9E. Only 199 fire districts out of the more than 1,500 districts in the State of North Carolina possess a rating of 4.

The Town of Fuquay-Varina Fire Department is funded and maintained jointly by Wake County government and the Town of Fuquay-Varina. "The credit for this achievement belongs to the firefighters who have worked hard to make us safer," said County Commissioner Matt Calabria, who is Vice Chair of

the Wake County Board of Commissioners and Chair of its Public Safety Committee. "This is proof that we can do the right thing and stand by our first responders, and we'll be safer and wealthier because of it. I am proud that county commissioners and town leadership are committed to supporting our firefighters," Calabria said. "For the county's part, we have brought firefighter compensation up to competitive levels so that we can recruit and retain great firefighters with competitive salaries. We have also ensured that safety equipment meets national standards, and that our firefighters are, for the first time, receiving annual physicals."

The Town of Fuquay-Varina Fire Department is a municipal combination career/volunteer department located in Southern Wake County, approximately 15 miles from Raleigh. The department provides fire protection to over 50,000 residents in a 68 square mile jurisdiction and is led by Chief Tony Mauldin with 43 career staff, 10 part time firefighters and 21 volunteers for a total of 74 personnel.