

# Best in Class: City Achieves ISO Rating of 1

Within the entire United States, there are only 60 cities that can tout an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 1, and as of February 1, 2014, Webster is included in that rarified, highly select stratum. As ISO ratings impact insurance premiums and define a community's fire protection prowess, a top classification results in reduced rates, as well as enhanced economic development. Residents, businesses, commercial building owners, shopping center landlords, single- and multi-family residential property owners, and all who own or lease a structure in Webster are beneficiaries of the City's Class 1 ranking.

Insurance Services Offices, a national organization tasked with evaluating municipal fire protection, conducts rigorous analyses of a city's fire suppression system, water supply, and communications network. First, the entire fire department is studied, including staffing, equipment, training, and logistics. Next, the water supply system is demarcated and tested, including the condition and maintenance of hydrants, spacing of hydrants, amount of available water, and capacity for sustainable flow for a duration of two hours. Then, the communications system is assessed—voice over internet protocol telephone equipment, lines, service, internet speed, capacity, and reliability, fire alarms, dispatch operations, and adherence to the most up to date technology.

As the ISO rating is indicative of the level of fire service that a community receives and carries important ramifications for insurance rates, business recruitment, retention, and expansion, the regulatory agency takes its role very seriously in thoroughly analyzing data in three major areas—the fire department, itself, the municipal water supply, and communications. In fact, once the process is initiated by the municipality, ISO's evaluation can span over a year's interval given the extensive number of reports, documentation, and on-site visitations. Webster is one of 18 cities within the State of Texas to have earned an ISO rating of 1 and one of 60 cities within the entire United States to attain this extraordinary classification.



*Webster Fire Chief Patrick Shipp, ISO representative Phillip Bradley, Mayor Floyd Myers, and State Fire Marshal Chris Connelly display plaques commemorating the City's exceptional accomplishment.*



*As a leader among cities, Webster has the "right stuff."  
Led by Fire Chief Patrick Shipp, the exceptional staff, new fire station, and state-of-the-art apparatus illustrate the City's top-notch caliber.*