



Brownsburg Fire Territory

Fire Chief

"Vigilantly Serving the People"

Intradepartmental Communication

Date: August 18, 2011
To: BFT Executive Board, Brownsburg Town Council
From: Oran True
Subject: August Monthly Report
Memo #

Insurance Services Organization, a reporting agency which rates fire protection services within a given area, is updating its records, asking for additional information about Brownsburg Fire Territory and the services we provide. The ISO updates include questions regarding fire station locations, hydrant map updates, additional water supplies such as dry hydrants and their locations, and any new public safety enhancements that could produce improved ratings for the Territory.

During the update process, I noted that Station 133 was not shown on the facilities map, which had been an issue for some time. Station 133 opened in February of 2007, and provided a greatly needed enhancement to the Territory's ability to protect our citizens. Having attempted to update this information numerous times in writing since 2007, I called ISO's headquarters in Chicago, IL to once again attempt to correct this oversight. Fortunately, technology has changed in such a way that this error was corrected immediately, and there was no further need to worry about this problem.

I bring this up to underscore the importance of a solid ISO rating, the lower the better. The lower a department's ISO rating, the more cost-effective an area is for business development and retention, as this rating corresponds with the insurance rates a business or property owner pays for hazard insurance. The Territory has grown rapidly over the past 10 years, and the professionalism as have the services provided by the department.

Some may question the Fire Marshal or Engine Company conducting an annual fire prevention inspection, and consider it invasive and/or troublesome. This program of annual inspections of businesses is part of an ISO rating, and the more proactive a department, the more rating points received, lowering the overall insurance rating for the department, and lowering the insurance and overhead cost factors for all who live or own property within the Territory. Lower overhead costs, lead to greater sustainability of businesses, larger growth factors for those businesses, and a much greater opportunity to land those businesses relocating or starting up, as well as retaining those businesses which you are fortunate enough to have within your Territory.

Plans review for new businesses, annual fire prevention inspections, construction inspections and occupancy inspections are all part of a solid fire prevention program, which benefits all in ways they may not fully understand. Hopefully, this will help alleviate misconceptions about why fire prevention programs are so vital to a community's safety, sustainability, and future growth.

Respectfully Submitted,

Oran D. True