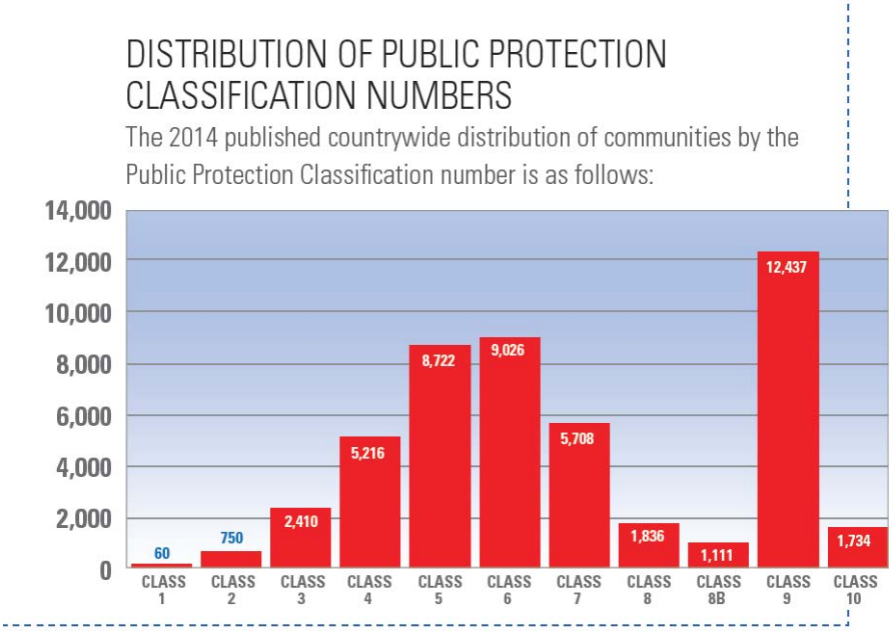
level of protection, the less likely an insurance company will have to reimburse a claim for fire damage. The fewer number of claims, the lower the cost for the insurance provider. Of course fire protection can work the opposite way. A sub-par fire department or district will have the potential to experience more fire losses. More fire losses means more insurance claims filed. In order to make costs meet, the insurance companies raise the premiums you pay. ISO gives a ranking of 1 to 10, with 1 being the best and 10 being no protection at all.

This year, the Bensenville Fire Protection District underwent a re-evaluation of the Department's Insurance Service Office (ISO) fire rating. The purpose of the re-evaluation is to rate the effectiveness of fire agengies to respond to and suppress fires. The fire insurance premiums of residential and commercial properties are based on the rating determined by ISO. The District's rating improved from a Class 4 to a Class 2 (on a 10 point scale as shown in the graph below with a rating of 1 being the best). As a result of the improved rating, the Bensenville Fire Protection District is among the top 2% of the fire departments and fire protection district in the United States. For more information please visit www.isomitigation.com. Please check with your insurance agencies to see if there is a cost savings as a result of the improved rating.



Take advantage of the fire district, stop by to interact with the firefighters to ask questions and get a tour of the fire vehicles and see what they are able to do at the scene of an emergency. Just don't be offended if they have to rush off in the case of an emergency. Simply leave and come back another time.

HOW DO THE FIREFIGHTERS SPEND THEIR DAYS? ARE THEY JUST SITTING AROUND WAITING FOR EMERGENCIES?

Remember, the BFPD responds to far more than fires. The fire district responds to medical emergencies, they go on hazardous materials responses and all types of rescues. They even assist city residents and businesses to stop property loss after a ruptured pipe or water leak.

In addition to responding to over calls per year, the fire district keeps busy with many other activities. When not responding to emergencies you may find us testing hose, testing our fire engine pumps, taking training classes (over ,00 cumulative hours in 201), cleaning the fire stations, maintenance and repairing of the buildings, washing the fire vehicles or out conducting fire prevention activities in the 6 elementary and one high school we protect. This in addition to developing pre-plans for emergency response in our industrial and business community. [illegible]

HOW DOES SOMEONE BECOME A FIREFIGHTER?

The Bensenville Fire Protection District has a rigorous testing process that includes the following requirements: The applicant must:

[illegible]

Possess a valid Illinois driver's license.
Possess a Firefighter II (basic) certification from the State of Illinois.
Possess a Paramedic license from the State of Illinois.
Pass a candidate physical agility test.
Pass a written test.
Pass an oral interview

Then be placed of a list to be contacted when a position comes open
Once offered a position the applicant must:

1. Pass a medical exam under NFPA Standards
2. Pass a psychological exam.
3. Go through a complete background check.
4. In addition, once the applicant is hired they must pass a demanding twelve month probationary process.

THANK YOU FOR THE TIME TO LET THE FIRE DISTRICT PRESENT ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE MORE COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS. SHOULD YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT MY DIRECT OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: 630.594.1184.

REMEMBER BE SAFE OUT THERE!

Michael F. Spain, Fire Chief, Bensenville Fire Protection District