



MIKE CAUSEY
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

BRIAN TAYLOR
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

For Immediate Release

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Fire District Receives New Rating After Inspection

State Officials Award New District Rating

RALEIGH - State Fire Marshal Brian Taylor announced today that the following Fire Districts completed their routine inspection and received the listed rating, on listed effective dates. The inspection, conducted by officials with 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, proper maintenance of equipment, communications capabilities and availability of a water source.

| District ===== | Type ===== | Rating ===== | Effective ===== |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Westfield | Rural | 4/9E | 08/01/2024 |

The NCRRS rating system ranges from one (highest) to 10 (not recognized as a certified fire department by the state), with most rural departments falling into the 9S category. While lower ratings do not necessarily indicate poor service, a higher rating does suggest that a department is overall better equipped to respond to fires in its district. Higher ratings can also significantly lower homeowners insurance rates in that fire district.

State Fire Marshal Brian Taylor extends his congratulations to Jonathan C Sutphin for the commendable performance of the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and the dedicated efforts of its team. "The residents of Westfield fire district(s) can take comfort in knowing this highly capable team of firefighters from the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. is safeguarding them and their belongings in the event of an emergency," Brian stated. OSFM inspections are designed to assess various aspects of fire departments, including equipment, training, and emergency response capabilities, contributing to the overall effectiveness of fire services in North Carolina. State law mandates inspections by OSFM officials for departments serving districts with 100,000 people or fewer.

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