



MIKE CAUSEY
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

BRIAN TAYLOR
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

April 25, 2024

Jonathan C Sutphin
Fire Chief
PO Box 170
Westfield, NC 27053

Re: Westfield Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Dear Chief Sutphin:

Congratulations on your recent improvement to your fire suppression rating!

I commend you and your department for your dedication and commitment to making your community a safer place to live.

I know you are proud of your department's achievement and would like to share this news with the members of your community. I also know that the majority of citizens may not be aware that the rating of their responding fire department directly impacts their property insurance calculations. So I'd like to provide you the enclosed news release to offer to your local media. Feel free to add to it or use it as an example in creating your own. You deserve to brag a little about the expertise of your personnel, which saves homeowners money and, most importantly, makes their lives safer.

It was the pleasure of my staff to work with you and members of your staff during the recent survey of your department. Chief Sutphin, I hope that you will take a few minutes to review our rating process and offer any suggestions that you feel may help us to improve our inspections program. Working together, we can continue to make North Carolina a safer place to live and work.

Respectfully,

Brian Taylor
State Fire Marshal

BT/sh



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For Immediate Release

Contact: Shannon Bullock (919) 647-0000

April 25, 2024

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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