



## North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **North Tahoe Fire, Meeks Bay Fire, and Alpine Springs County Water District ISO Rating Lowered**

**Tahoe City, Calif.** – Beginning in April this year, the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) rating for North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) will jump to the top tier with a three rating. Historically the North Tahoe Fire Protection District's ISO rating has been a four. The ISO evaluates fire departments in the United States. Based on this evaluation, they assign a rating between one and ten for each department. One being the best and ten being the worst. This evaluation is based upon many factors.

A significant factor to this dramatic rating improvement includes the ISO's recognition of NTFPD's inter-operational relationships. This new recognition establishes what the ISO refers to as the North Tahoe Fire Protection District *area*. Within this *area*, the capabilities of NTFPD's cooperating districts Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (MBFPD) and Alpine Springs Community Water District were considered; in turn homeowners in the three districts will see the same improved rating.

There are several addition reasons for the jump in rating, one of which includes the district's fire prevention and public education program which raised the score five additional points from last year. The operations division also scored five points, and the NTFPD training division jumped significantly as well. Additionally, our partners at Grass Valley Emergency Command Center added to the point value this year. Forty percent of the ISO rating is related to water supply, and although these points remained statistically unchanged, our three municipal water purveyors; North Tahoe Public Utility District, Tahoe City Public Utility District, and Alpine Springs County Water District along with many of the independently owned water companies provided crucial water for fire-flow data and continue to work towards improving water systems by adding hydrants, and capacity which is consequently decreasing the areas within the districts that have inadequate water for fire suppression (Class 3Y).

"An ISO rating of 3 is hard to achieve in a rural area. Our lowered ISO score could potentially save the community millions in savings on fire insurance premiums and also makes our community more insurable. How it plays out under the current challenging fire insurance climate; we will see." says NTFPD Fire Chief Schwartz.

As always, NTFPD credits the support from the community, the District's Board and MBFPD Fire Board in their vital role in keeping our equipment updated and helping to ensure our stations are adequately staffed.

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