



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR

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KENNER FIRE DEPARTMENT RETAINS ELITE CLASS 2 FIRE RATING

Kenner, LA. - The City of Kenner has retained its Class 2 fire rating, joining only 32 other departments in the state and ensuring that Kenner businesses and residents will continue to save money on insurance, Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni announced Tuesday.

There are 605 fire departments throughout the state that are rated every five years by the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana. The ratings are based on a 1 to 10 scale with 1 being the best possible score. Only four departments in Louisiana have a Class 1 rating, according to Blaine Rabe, Public Protection Division Manager for PIAL.

“This is wonderful news because it is difficult to meet the many requirements necessary to qualify for a Class 2 rating,” Yenni said. “I want to congratulate Chief John Hellmers and the dedicated firefighters in the department. However, even though a Class 2 rating is excellent, it is still my goal for Kenner to achieve a Class 1 rating. While recognizing the city’s fiscal restraints, we will work toward that goal.”

Rabe said the organization’s evaluation is extensive and is based on three main areas: communications, water supply and the fire department itself. There are three sub-topics for communications and water supply and eight or nine sub-topics for the fire department.

“You’re talking about the number of dispatchers and firefighters, what types of apparatus the department has, ongoing training and the pressure in hydrants throughout the city,” Rabe said, listing only a few of the items analyzed during the evaluation.

Kenner’s fire department includes 95 employees. Four are dispatchers, one is an inspector and 89 are involved in fire suppression, Kenner Fire Chief John Hellmers said. The city has six fire stations.

“I do believe it is feasible for Kenner to reach a Class 1 rating, and we hope to achieve that” in the future, Hellmers said.

Hellmers said businesses save about 3 to 4 percent on insurance premiums because of the Class 2 rating. In addition to similar savings for residents, a Class 2 rating verifies that a department maintains an excellent response time to fire calls.

The Class 2 rating is even more impressive when considered on a national scale. Less than 2 percent of all departments in the country have achieved Class 2 status.

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“While saving money is important, the No. 1 issue is safety, and with a Class 2 rating, residents can rest assured the Kenner Fire Department has both the resources and the training to provide top-notch fire protection,” Yenni said.

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