



District's ISO Rating Improves!

By Chief Robert Turpel

Effective 1 June 2011, the Long Grove Fire Protection District's (LGFPD or District) Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) rating improved to a Class 3 in the areas with hydrants (including drafting/dry hydrants) and a Class 4 in the rural areas where tanker shuttles and/or long supply hose lays are utilized. Previously, the most current rating was a District-wide Class 5 which was received in 1994.

ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC) ranges from 1 to 10. Class 1 signifies an exemplary fire suppression program while Class 10 indicates that an area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. "ISO's PPC program evaluates communities according to a uniform set of criteria, incorporating nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association". The PPC program incorporates three distinct areas:

- ◆ Fire alarm and communication systems (worth 10% of total score)
- ◆ Fire department operations (worth 50% of total score)
- ◆ Water supply system (worth 40% of total score)

There is one additional factor considered in calculating the final score and that is Divergence. Simply put, divergence recognizes any disparity between the effectiveness of the fire department and the available water supply.

Remember, ISO is an independent company that serves insurance com-

panies, communities, fire departments, insurance regulators and others by providing unbiased information about risk. "Insurance companies use PPC information for marketing, underwriting and to help establish fair premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance. In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC, assuming all other factors are equal."

According to ISO's published Illinois distribution of communities by PPC numbers (for 2010):

# of Departments	Class
5	1
2	2
152	3
264	4
440	5
656	6
517	7
141	8
21	8B
219	9
27	10

Countrywide the statistics for the 2010 year are as follows:

# of Departments	Class
62	1
585	2
2015	3
4613	4
8089	5
8890	6
5986	7
2232	8
806	8B
13409	9
1637	10

As you can see by reviewing the above information/data, the LGFPD is very proud of achieving the 3/4 blended ISO rating. Enormous improvements have been realized over the years in the areas of staffing, apparatus/equipment, training, water supply, code enforcement, preplanning, dispatch services and the use of automatic response/mutual aid companies. Finally, these improvements were obtained while remaining fiscally responsible to our residents and business owners.

(Source: Public Protection Classification Summary Report for LGFPD-15 April 2011)

LGFPD Mission Statement

To provide residents, owners, businesses, and visitors within the Long Grove Fire Protection District and any recognized emergency agency requesting automatic/mutual aid with the safest, effective, efficient, comprehensive and customer focused Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services possible. This high level of professional services will not be limited in scope to emergency situations only, but will encompass the broader spectrum of public safety to include Public Education, Fire Inspections and all other support services.

Fire Prevention Bureau Overview

By Inspector Walt Lovelady

It occurred to me when I sat down to write for this issue of Fire Line that now might be a good time to explain briefly what the Long Grove Fire Prevention Bureau (Bureau) does and why it is such an important part of LGFPD. Most people know that the Bureau is responsible for performing fire inspections on all buildings within the District (except for single family homes). The Bureau however, also has many other responsibilities which may not be as well known. An incomplete list of Bureau activities would include the already mentioned fire inspections, as well as:

- ◆ Plan reviews (and inspections) on all commercial constructions, to insure code compliance with a myriad of applicable codes.
 - ◆ Plan reviews (and inspections) on all residential constructions and remodeling involving residential sprinkler systems. These have been a Village of Long Grove and LGFPD requirement since 1988.
 - ◆ The investigation of all fires large and small, to determine (if possible) and document, their origin and cause.
 - ◆ The maintenance and updating of District records pertaining to ownership and contact information of all buildings and businesses.
 - ◆ The maintenance and updating of Pre-Plan maps, sketches and information that fire and ambulance companies use when responding to emergencies.
 - ◆ The maintenance and updating of all records pertaining to the annual testing of fire notification and suppression (fire alarms and fire sprinkler) systems. As well as mandating and inspecting any required repairs or alterations for these systems.
 - ◆ The updating and enforcement of District rules, ordinances, and records pertaining to open burning. As well as the regulation and inspection of any open burning events within the District.
 - ◆ Providing fire and life safety education to both District staff and the public, especially residents of the District.
 - ◆ Performing home fire safety assessments, on an advisory basis, at the invitation of homeowners within the District.
- ◆ Inspections relating to temporary displays and tents during outdoor events and festivals within the District.

The mission of the Bureau is safety. This we provide in two places. First, to the citizens and residents, directly through education in any number of on-going programs and initiatives such as the E.D.I.T.H (Exit Drills In The Home) Program and by insuring that buildings are constructed and maintained in compliance with applicable safety codes and standards. Then, on a continuing basis, by requiring through inspections, that exits remain clear and suppression and notification systems are tested and maintained to insure that they will function correctly in the event of an emergency.

The other very important way that the Bureau contributes to raise the overall level of safety within the District is to our own firefighters. In an article by Ron Kanterman, the February 2, 2011 issue of Fire Engineering Magazine states unequivocally, "Fire Prevention Saves Firefighter Lives." The article continues, "Almost any code enforcement action taken while conducting fire inspections will have a positive impact on firefighter safety." The reasons for this are many but the two that stand out most are: (1) All inspection and enforcement activities that increase the likelihood that early notification (fire alarm) systems activate correctly would increase the probability that emergency responders arrive at the scene well prior to critical (and life threatening) events such as a "flashover." Interventions made prior to this time, when all combustibles reach ignition temperature simultaneously, may delay or even eliminate this deadly occurrence and allow extinguishment of the fire when it is much smaller. This benefits not only the fire crews but also the building owners or residents by allowing much less damage from the fire itself and from firefighting operations. In a similar way, regular inspection, testing, and maintenance of installed suppression systems (fire sprinklers) would go a long way toward guaranteeing their timely performance in the event of a fire. A timely and correct response by fire sprinkler systems, either residential or commercial, provides the emergency responders with a much better, safer

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Car Safety: Do You Know What To Do?

By: Firefighter/Paramedic Katie Hayes

Imagine you are driving home from work, distracted because of the long stressful day that you have had. You just picked up the kids from school and they begin fighting in the back seats. You turn around to try to calm everyone in the car down when suddenly the traffic light



turns red and the cars in front of you have stopped. Realizing it too late, you can't stop soon enough and rear-end the car in front of you. The airbags go off, your cell phone flies through the air, the children's backpacks spill everywhere and in a matter of seconds your car ride home has taken a horrible turn for the worse. After calming down you realize that you

have just been involved in a car accident. Would you know what to do after the fact? Who should you call if someone is injured? Do you get out of your car? These are a few questions that everyone should have an idea on how to answer.

The most important issue to remember is how to prevent car accidents from the beginning. Before you even turn on your vehicle make sure everyone in the car is wearing the proper safety equipment and is aware of the situation. No matter where you are sitting in the car everyone should have a seat belt on, or be strapped into a child car seat. Seat belts have saved more than 13,000 lives each year. Make sure your surroundings are clear, inside and outside. Don't play loud distracting music, and if possible turn your cell phone off, so you are not tempted to talk or text on your phone causing a distraction. Your chance of getting into a car crash while talking on a cell phone increases by 400 percent. While you are driving focus on what you are doing, avoid using cell phones, reading maps or GPS devices. If you are a passenger do not attempt to distract the driver.



Unfortunately accidents occur, and we can all help keep

the situation calmer if we all educate ourselves on what to do. If you are involved in an accident, you should immediately place your vehicle in park and shut it off. If you have access to a phone or someone near you does, contact 9-1-1. Whether you are injured or not 9-1-1, will be able to dispatch both the fire and police departments. Try to find out as best as possible your location and closest major intersections. This will help the appropriate emergency vehicles find where you are. Unless it is unsafe always stay in your vehicle. This will help from causing more accidents, and it keeps you and your loved ones safe if you are injured.



Once the police and fire department arrive on the scene, try to stay as calm as possible. Explain to them everything that you remember. Whether it was your fault or not, they need to know what happened in order to provide proper emergency care for those that may be injured. If you need to be transported to the nearest hospital for further emergency treatment, the police on scene will assist in the towing of your vehicle and inform loved ones on scene what hospital you will be transported to. It is always recommended that anyone who is injured be evaluated further at the hospital.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact the Long Grove Fire Protection District. Also, the fire department offers free car seat inspections and installations; contact Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Mosier at 847-634-3143 to make an appointment.



Meet Our Fire Service Family...

To do the best job possible, you have to hire the best. We are proud of our top personnel, so each newsletter will feature a few of our finest firefighters who are part of our team and fire service family.



Firefighter/Paramedic Dan Johnston began his fire service career in October of 2008. FF/PM Johnston started here by doing his ride time as a paramedic student at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights. After FF/PM Johnston completed paramedic school he attended the fire academy and was hired as a paid-on-call firefighter paramedic. In 2010 FF/PM Johnston began working here as a part time employee on a regular shift. During his training FF/PM Johnston worked in the emergency department at St. Alexis in Hoffman Estates. FF/PM Johnston still works in the emergency room at St. Alexis on a part time basis.

Since FF/PM Johnston has been here he has obtained his fire apparatus engineer certification and he is currently working on becoming a certified Fire Fighter III. FF/PM Johnston plans on continuing his education in the fire service.

When FF/PM Johnston isn't working he enjoys life outdoors hunting and fishing.



Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Niminski began in the fire service while he was in high school. He was enrolled in the Firefighter I program at Stevenson High School. Following high school FF/PM Niminski obtained an Associate Degree from College of Lake County. In 2007 FF/PM Niminski worked one season as a wildland firefighter in Vernal, Utah. He came back to Illinois where he attended emergency medical technician class and followed with paramedic school at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights. FF/PM Niminski completed paramedic school in 2009. FF/PM Niminski immediately went to the fire academy in Arlington Heights. FF/PM Niminski was hired by Long Grove in September of 2010 as a paid-on-call firefighter/paramedic.

When FF/PM Niminski is not working he owns an asphalt maintenance and snow plowing business. His leisure time is spent outdoors and playing hockey.

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chance to deal with the emergency before a critical situation presents.

The second important contribution to safety by the Bureau is as a resource. Inspectors, by virtue of their primary jobs, are continually in the field. They get into far more buildings, are familiar with far more fire alarm or fire sprinkler systems, and meet many more business and building owners than the average emergency responder. It is incumbent upon them to pass along as much information as possible about the current condition, both temporary and permanent, of the buildings and systems in the district.

As the economic pinch increases, there is a temptation to reduce or in some cases, even eliminate funding for Fire Prevention Activities. LGFPD however has recognized the value that prevention makes to the overall mission of the District; *To Provide the Long Grove Fire Protection District and any recognized emergency agency requesting automatic/mutual aid with the safest, effective, efficient, comprehensive, and customer focused Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services possible.* We work for your safety every day.

It Doesn't Get Any More Realistic Than This!

By: Chief Robert Turpel

The LGFPD was fortunate enough to acquire the use of a 15 acre residential property to utilize for structure fire training purposes. The property is located at 1889 Checker Road in the Village of Long Grove. The LGFPD was allowed to conduct realistic and comprehensive training exercises on two of the four structures on the property through an agreement with the owner, Orren Pickell Designers and Builders out of Lake Bluff, Illinois.

Prior to any training taking place, the owner and LGFPD secured a series of required permits through the Village of Long Grove, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Training began on the 25th of August 2011 and culminated with the final burn down of the main single family



home on the property on the 17th September 2011. Training was varied, of long duration and strenuous/demanding. Sometimes exercises involved only LGFPD personnel and at times it involved multiple jurisdictions. Sometimes evolutions involved simulated fire conditions and other times it was actual live fire training, in a realistic but controlled hostile environment with multi-company opera-

tions taking place simultaneously.

A multitude of areas were addressed with this



fire training and they include but are not limited to: improved instructor abilities; better understanding of fire behavior; command/control/coordination; safety officer responsibilities/duties; company officer responsibilities/duties; fire attack/hoseline advancement; ventilation/saw operations; forcible entry/wall breaching; search/victim removal; backup hoseline duties/responsibilities; fire extension checks/overhaul operations; rapid intervention team duties/responsibilities; fire personnel rehabilitation; fire apparatus engineering; rural water supply; and conducting fire operations in limited access areas. All I can say is it doesn't get any more realistic than this!

One interesting note, David A Lothspeich, the Village Manager for Long Grove was able to accompany fire personnel on one of the live fire room burn evolutions. Mr. Lothspeich was fitted for fire turnout gear and a mask and given a brief class on the use of a self-contained breathing apparatus. He was assigned a chief officer to keep a watchful eye over him and was escorted into the structure prior to the fire attack company making entry so he could observe the ignition team start a fire and observe the stages of fire behavior prior to extinguishment.

Mr. Lothspeich had the following to say about his experience, "it was amazing how quickly the smoke and heat fills the room and how disoriented you can become. I have an increased appreciation towards what firefighters do and how tough their training is." Finally, Mr. Lothspeich stated, "I was able to take this experience back to my family and tell them how important it is to get out and stay out."

In closing, I would like to thank Orren Pickell Designers and Builders for giving the LGFPD this opportunity to conduct such awesome training. Second, I would like to thank my Board of Trustees for allowing me to conduct such intensive training and for all practical purposes expensive training. This venture, based on preliminary figures, was fairly expensive due to overtime costs for station coverage, instructors and mandated building preparation/materials based on the NFPA 1403 Live Fire Training Standard



however, it was worth every penny we spent. The live fire training experience you receive while conducting operations in a real structure cannot be duplicated. Thirdly, I would like to thank Mr. Lothspeich for his trust and support of the LGFPD.

Contact Information for Homes and Businesses

By: Inspector Mario Tristan

Murphy's Law states that, "If something can go wrong, it probably will go wrong and usually at the worst possible time." For a home or business owner that time is often when you are out of town or unavailable. This is just a quick reminder about the importance of being able to reach the home or business owner in an emergency. In this time of almost instantaneous communications, it's surprising to note that many times when emergencies occur, it takes quite a long time to reach the home or business owner to inform them of the situation concerning their building. This long delay when trying to reach home or business owners is almost always due to difficulty in obtaining correct and current contact information and/or phone numbers. This can be remedied easily with just a few simple steps.

Many residences in this area are equipped with a residential sprinkler system. Many more have fire (and/or burglar) alarm systems which are installed, maintained, and monitored by a private, "central station" company. If you have an alarm system installed in your home or business that is monitored by a company or service, please make sure that the phone numbers and contact information that the company has on file are current. The same is true for the numbers or information which you may have given to neighbors or family members. If LGFPD responds to your home or business, one of the first places we look for contact information is with your neighbors. On a similar subject, if you have exchanged keys with any of your family or neighbors please make sure that they have been updated as well.

One additional method for providing access for emergency responders while maintaining security for your business or residence is to install a Knox-Box. This is a lock box that is secured to the exterior of the building. The Knox-Box provides a secure exterior repository for entry keys to the building. The installation of a Knox-Box is designed to eliminate the need for a possible forced entry into your building. The Knox-Box system is the only system approved by the District for the purpose

of rapid entry into buildings. Only LGFPD has access to the keys in your Knox-Box. The keys for every Knox-Box are specific to each fire jurisdiction and will not work in any other fire district.

Keys to allow entry into the building are placed inside the Knox-Box by a representative of the District. The keys may then be used by emergency responders to gain access in the event of an emergency. The advantage to this arrangement is that entry may be accomplished in the event of an emergency, without incurring any damage to the structure as would be the case if forced entry were to be used.



The District recommends the use of a

Knox-Box as a way to facilitate access to emergency responders while still maintaining the security of your home or business. For information on how to purchase and install a Knox-Box, please contact a member of the Bureau at 847-634-3143.

Calendar of Events

November 3	CPR/AED Class
December 6	First Aid Class
December 8	CPR/AED Class
January 5	CPR/AED Class
February 3	CPR/AED Class
March 6	First Aid Class
March 8	CPR/AED Class
April 12	CPR/AED Class
May 3	CPR/AED Class

Classes begin at 6 pm. Class fees are \$15 for residents of LGFPD, \$30 for non-residents. Call Katie for additional information 847-634-3143.

“Chicken Little...The Sky Is Falling”

By Chief Robert Turpel

That’s what it felt like from 7 AM, 11 July 2011 to 7 AM, 12 July 2011. This turned out to be the busiest 24 hour shift in the history of LGFPD. Forty-one calls for service were answered during that 24-hour period. As you may recall, severe thunderstorms with extremely strong winds struck the area causing wide spread damage and injuries.

The LGFPD with assistance from the Lake County Sheriffs Police and the South Lake County Regional Community Emergency Response Team (SLCR CERT) handled 29 storm related calls. These included responses for: trees down blocking the roadway; a tree down on a home; wires down; low hanging wires; trouble fire alarms; supervisory alarms; automatic fire alarms; electrical problems in the home; a car accident due to traffic lights being out from a power failure; a person stuck in the elevator; and a mutual aid response to the Beach Park Fire Depart-

ment for multiple problems arising from being hit by a microburst.

Twelve other calls for service that were non-storm related in nature were responded to during this time frame. They consisted of: a car accident; carbon monoxide detector activations; abdominal pain; stroke; battery patient; fever; injuries from a fall; odor of burning inside a home; a residential lockout; and a mutual aid request to the Libertyville Fire Department for a structure fire in their jurisdiction.

It was an extremely busy shift for District personnel, our local CERT and law enforcement however, comprehensive planning and training paid off as usual and the multiple incidents were handled efficiently, effectively and most important, safely.

FAQ: What is a Trauma Center and What is the Difference Between a Level 1 and a Level 2?

By Battalion Chief Marc Small

A trauma center is a hospital equipped to provide comprehensive emergency medical services to patients suffering traumatic injuries. Trauma centers grew into existence out of the realization that traumatic injury is a disease process unto itself requiring specialized and experienced multidisciplinary treatment and specialized resources.

Level I

A Level I trauma center provides the highest level of surgical care to trauma patients. Being treated at a Level I trauma center increases a seriously injured patient’s chances of survival by an estimated 20 to 25 percent. It has a full range of specialists and equipment available 24 hours a day and admits a minimum required annual volume of severely injured patients. A Level I trauma center is required to have a certain number of trauma surgeons, emergency physicians and anesthesiologists on duty 24 hours a day at the hospital, including 24 hour laboratory services in house. Other specialties (such as orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, ophthalmologic) are on call and must arrive at the hospital to treat the patient within 60 minutes after notification that their services are needed. Additionally, a Level I center has a program of research, is a leader in trauma education and injury prevention, and is a referral resource for communities in nearby regions.



Level II

A Level II trauma center is required to have emergency physicians on duty 24 hours a day at the hospital. Specialists like trauma surgeons, anesthesiologists, orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, ophthalmologic are on call and must arrive at the hospital to treat the patient within 60 minutes after notification that their services are needed. These institutions are not required to have an ongoing program of research or a surgical residency program.

In our area we have two Level I trauma centers, they are Condell Medical Center in Libertyville and Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Most of our patients that require Level I treatment will be taken to Condell due to its closeness to us. Some other communities may use aero medical helicopters to transport trauma patients to these specialty hospitals. Since we can get to either hospital within 30 minutes we use helicopters only on rare occasions.

We also transport to several Level II trauma centers; Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove, Good Shepard Hospital in Barrington, Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview, Lake Forest Hospital in Lake Forest, and Highland Park Hospital in Highland Park.



Fire Line
A newsletter of
Long Grove Fire Protection District
1165 Old McHenry Road
Long Grove IL 60047
847-634-3143

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11th Annual
Wreath Sale

Emergency always dial 9-1-1
Non-emergency 847-634-3143

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The 12 Days of Holiday Safety

By: Inspector Mario Tristan

Here are a few simple things you can do in a minute to help protect your family.

- ✓ **Day 1:** Talk to your kids about safety. Teach them not to touch electric lights, cords or decorations.
- ✓ **Day 2:** Read an article on SafetyAtHome.com on ladder safety before you hang decorations.
- ✓ **Day 3:** Examine your lights for wear – kids can help point out unlit bulbs, but they shouldn't handle the strands.
- ✓ **Day 4:** If you have a tree, set a family tree-watering plan and let your kids participate if they're old enough.
- ✓ **Day 5:** Check your holiday decorations to make sure that they are not a choking hazard.
- ✓ **Day 6:** Turn pot handles inward when cooking to avoid being grabbed by kids.
- ✓ **Day 7:** Review your fire escape plan. Did your holiday decorations block any essential exits?
- ✓ **Day 8:** Learn what a UL Mark looks like and teach your kids to find them on products.
- ✓ **Day 9:** If you are using candles and matches during the holidays, check to be sure they are stored in a locked cabinet or well away from children.
- ✓ **Day 10:** Test your smoke alarm. Need new batteries? Replace them.
- ✓ **Day 11:** Recycle wrapping paper into cards or tags and use again.
- ✓ **Day 12:** Recycle your tree at a local recycling center. You can search for one near you at www.earth911.com.