NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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The Woodlands Fire Department earns prestigious ISO 1 rating

THE WOODLANDS, TX (March 20, 2014) – The Woodlands Township officially announced today that The Woodlands Fire Department has earned the prestigious ISO rating of 1 from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), Inc.'s Public Protection Department. There are only 60 out of 47,000 communities nationwide that have achieved this status, according to ISO records.

"The Township has been working toward this goal for many years," said Township Chairman Bruce Tough. "Predominately, building fire stations 6, 7, 8 and the Emergency Training Center contributed to the successful completion of this goal. Congratulations to Chief Benson and his staff on this accomplishment," he said.

The State Fire Marshall's Office presented a plaque to The Woodlands Fire Department at the Township board's March 20 meeting. The ISO 1 classification will take effect May 1, 2014.

"This accomplishment is an example of the board's and the community's commitment toward providing exemplary public safety services. We are proud to serve the residents and businesses of The Woodlands," said Chief Benson.

ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC™) Service gauges the fire protection capability of local fire departments to respond to structure fires. ISO collects information on a community's public fire protection and analyzes the data, then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents the best public protection, and Class 10 indicates no recognized protection.

A statement from ISO reads, "This means your community's fire suppression services are improving in the face of the demands of a changing environment. Congratulations on this recognition of your commitment to serve the needs of your community's property owners and residents."

Almost all United States insurers of homes and business property use ISO's PPC in calculating premiums. Generally, 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.

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A community's PPC depends on:

- **the fire department**, including equipment, staffing, training, and geographic distribution of fire companies;
- **the water supply system**, including condition and maintenance of hydrants, and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires; and
- **fire alarm and communications systems**, including telephone systems, telephone lines, staffing, and dispatching systems.

ISO is a leading source of information, products and services about property and liability risk. ISO provides statistical, actuarial, underwriting, claims, and related information and analyses to insurers, reinsurers, agents, insurance regulators, and other government agencies. For more information, please visit the ISO mitigation Web site at www.isomitigation.com.

For more information on The Woodlands Township and The Woodlands Fire Department, please visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/firedepartment.

Photo: The Woodlands Township officially received its ISO rating of 1 at The Woodlands Township Board meeting on March 20, 2014. The rating takes effect in May. *Pictured left to right:* Phillip Bradley *(ISO), Township Board of Directors* Ed Robb, Peggy Hausman, Gordy Bunch, Mike Bass, Township Chairman Bruce Tough*, The Woodlands Fire Dept.* Chief Alan Benson*, Township Board of Directors* Jeff Long*, The Woodlands Joint Powers* Jim Stinson*, The Woodlands Board of Directors* John McMullen and *Texas State Fire Marshal* Chris Connealy.

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