



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release  
**October 12, 2012**

For More Information:  
**Tom Belt, Fire Chief 225-8940**

### **FIRE PROTECTION RATING IMPROVEMENT**

The City of Marquette was recently informed that its public fire protection rating improved from a 5 to a 3. This upgrade was a result of a comprehensive inspection of the City's Fire and Water Departments, and the County's Central Dispatch System. The inspection and resultant rating was performed by the Insurance Services Office (ISO), an independent third party organization that evaluates every fire protection districts in the United States. The rating scale is from 1 to 10; 10 being the least and 1 being the best level of fire protection. The inspections are conducted every ten years.

The ISO inspection applies the exact same standard to every city, village, and township in the United States. The rating schedule is a weighted system that assigns points in three areas: fire department 50%, water supply 40% and dispatch/notification function, 10%.

Of the 1,987 Michigan fire districts, Marquette now finds itself in the top 1%. On the national scale, of the 47,242 fire districts, we now reside in the top 4%. There are only 27 communities in Michigan that are rated 3. A few examples would be the cities of St. Clair Shores, Royal Oak, Troy, and Birmingham.

Factors that contributed to the improved rating include upgrades in training, inspections, and equipment in the Fire Department, a program of water supply upgrades, inspections and maintenance in the water department, and improved Central Dispatch procedures.

Fire Chief Tom Belt says that "long term commitment by the City's elected officials and management have provided the resources needed to focus on, and improve the fire protection delivery system in Marquette. The ISO inspection and rating are an excellent objective measurement of the results of that commitment. This feedback informs us that for a city our size, we have attained a very high level of efficiency, utilizing our taxpayer resources provided."

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