

## Plymouth Fire Department Public Protection Class Press Release

The Plymouth Fire Department and the Town of Plymouth are pleased to announce that effective July 1, 2014, residents of the Township will see an improvement in their rural ISO fire protection class. In a letter received from the Insurance Services Office, the Township's fire protection class rating will improve to a PPC of 5/10 from the previous 8B. ISO's Public Protection Classification Program (PPC) plays an important role in the underwriting process for insurance companies.

The improvement was the end result of an 18 month project by the fire department with partial funding by the Flanagan Insurance Agency. Members of the committee performed an analysis of rural water movement through validating the mobile water resources available to the department through Sheboygan County's MABAS partners. Established were the fill rates and dump rates for each apparatus within Sheboygan County. This data was shared with each department for their reference.

Members also undertook the analysis of the department's Jet Siphon appliances to test a hypothesis of whether the appliances are capable of supporting the highest demand needed during fire ground operations. The Jet Siphon is an appliance that allows the department to transfer water between drop tanks which serve as reservoir for holding water transported by the mobile water "tender" apparatus. The water is unloaded from the tenders into these portable drop tanks during fire ground operations in areas that are not served by municipal water supply through hydrants.

As part of the analysis the committee created a specialized test gauge which allowed for the measurement of a change in water depth in their drop tanks to be converted in to gallons of water. These timed test trials provided the committee with the gallons per minute consumed at various operating pressures by the Jet Siphon. Additional testing resulted in the transfer rate in gallons per minute between the two water sources at various operating pressures.

This data, together and the flow rates for the various municipal tender fill sites, and mapped distances in road miles of the Townships exposures at the 5 mile periphery were submitted to the Insurance Services Office, in late October of 2013. With Public Protection Class rating from 1 through 6 typically only found in the municipal settings with hydrant availability, a Rural PPC rating of 5 is a meaningful accomplishment by the members of the Plymouth Fire Department.

Plymouth Fire Department serves both the City and Town of Plymouth residents by a Full Time Chief, eight officers, and 35 firefighters. Major apparatus are two engines, one engine/tender, 100' aerial platform, two tenders, 10-man crash rescue unit and an ambulance. Founded in 1868, the Department and its members take great pride in this accomplishment.