

Property Insurance Association of Louisiana

Municipal Division Newsletter

Edition: 2018-1

Staying Informed . . .

The first year of ratings under the new Fire Suppression Rating Schedule are now complete. Unfortunately, there seems to be several sections in the schedule where some fire departments are not gaining the available credits. As you prepare for your next rating it is important that you understand the changes and details of the new FSRS. Your PIAL field representative is available to help you stay informed. We strongly recommend that you take full advantage of the following documents and services:

- Obtain a copy of the new ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule by emailing your request to brabe@pial.org on fire department letterhead.
- Download a copy of the LA Addendum to the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule from www.pial.org under the Municipal tab.
- Schedule a PGAP meeting with your PIAL field representative. Our Professional Grading Assistance Program can help you understand how the new schedule applies to the specifics of your graded area. Participation in a P-GAP Meeting cannot have any adverse impact on your rating.

You can also help by keeping us informed. We are always looking to improve our processes so don't forget to return your Customer Satisfaction Survey after your rating is completed.

Equipment:

Smoke Ejectors and PPV fans:



All smoke ejectors and PPV fans are not created equal. They all have a CFM rating that is a measurement in Cubic Feet per Minute. They also have different shroud and venturi rates that are measured based on how the fan is utilized. The

shroud rate is the amount of air moved by the fan itself. PIAL will credit smoke ejectors and PPV fans based on their shroud rate only. The minimum creditable rating is 5000 CFM. Stacking two or more fans to combine their respective CFM rates will not be considered. As always,

thermal imaging cameras can be substituted in place of a smoke ejector or PPV fan.

Thermal Imaging Cameras:



There are hundreds of thermal imaging cameras (or TICs) on the market. However, not all TICs meet NFPA standards for the Fire Service. Only thermal imaging cameras that meet NFPA 1801

Standard on Thermal Imagers for the Fire Service will be creditable. One of the latest products on the market is the mask mounted thermal imaging camera. While these mask mounted TICs can increase the level of safety and awareness to firefighters, they are addressed by NFPA

for Emergency Services only. Currently, mask mounted thermal imaging cameras do not meet the standards of NFPA 1801 for the Fire Service and will not be creditable.

Ladders: Two Little Giant ladders have recently been approved for the Fire Service by NFPA. They are the Little Giant Defender and the Little Giant Overhaul.



Defender



Overhaul

Both the Defender and the Overhaul meet the requirements for fire department ground ladders set forth by NFPA 1901, and NFPA 1931, and the testing requirements of NFPA 1932. These are the only two Little Giant ladders that will be creditable. The Defender will be an acceptable substitute for the fourteen-foot combination ladder that is carried on ladder trucks and service companies. The Overhaul will be an acceptable substitute for the sixteen-foot roof ladder that is carried on ladder trucks and service companies.

Interoperability:



Let's take a moment to discuss interoperability as it pertains to communications. Interoperability is basically the ability of one system to work with another system. For example, if your communication center's CAD system sends you text messages of alarms, then you have interoperability. Even though this is not considered a creditable form of dispatch, like a portable radio or voice pager, points can still be allocated under

the Computer-Aided Dispatch with interoperability section of communications.

What's New...?

Operational Considerations

This is a new section to the FSRS that is worth two points towards the fire department credits. One point is dedicated to Standard Operating Procedures and the other point is dedicated to Incident Management Systems.

SOPs

Up to one point will be allocated for having and utilizing written Standard Operating Procedures for general emergency operations that have been revised within the last five years on the following topics:

- Response of Apparatus
- Operation of Emergency Vehicles
- Safety at Emergency Incidents
- Communications
- Apparatus Inspection and Maintenance
- Fire Suppression
- Company Operations
- Automatic/Mutual Aid Operations
- Training
- Personnel Response

Standard Operating Procedures should contain the date that they were last reviewed or revised. Credit will be applied for as many of the SOPs listed above that are available for review.

IMS

Up to one point will be allocated for having an established Incident Management System in accordance with NFPA 1500. This credit is applicable for all fire department members that have been trained in the incident management system within the last five years. Members should be trained in accordance with their expected level of involvement but, the minimum level of IMS 100 will be acceptable for credit. IMS training may be received in-house or from an outside agency. Credit will be applied for the percentage of members that have current IMS training.

Things we've seen:



The new FSRS has been in effect since January 1, 2017 and there are numerous areas where PIAL has observed a loss of credits. We'd like to tell you about some of these areas in the hope that your fire department will not lose these credits.

This edition of the newsletter focuses on credits for Fire Department:

1. **Problem:** I used to receive credit for a reserve engine company and a reserve ladder/service company even though I didn't have any reserve apparatus, but this time I didn't receive any credit.

Discussion: The way the FSRS applies credits for reserve apparatus has changed. The new schedule simply allocates credit for having a reserve apparatus. Under the old schedule one apparatus was removed from your in-service companies and credit was applied for the number that was still available. For example, if you had two engine companies, the points for one apparatus was removed and you were left with the points for 50% of your in-service apparatus. You would have received a half a point credit for a reserve apparatus even though you didn't have one.

Recommendation: Under the new FSRS you must have a dedicated reserve apparatus to receive credit in these sections.

2. **Problem:** I seem to be leaving more points on the table with the change in the schedule from distribution of companies to deployment analysis.

Discussion: The points for this section have increased from four points to ten points. The calculations are made based on the number of road miles that are protected from each engine company and ladder/service company location as compared to the total road miles in the graded area. The percentage of points that are allocated is relatively the same. However, if you previously scored about two points in this section you will probably score about five points under the new FSRS. So, instead of only leaving two points on the table, that number has now increased to about five points.

Recommendation: Submitting NFPA 1710 response time data may help offset these points. The new FSRS will evaluate the road mileage data against the response time data and allocate credit for the method that provides the most credit. Don't worry if the response times don't meet the standard set forth by NFPA because they may still provide more credit than the road mileage calculations.

3. **Problem:** All the officers on my fire department received the required number of officer training hours, but I didn't get full credit under the officer training section.

Discussion: The new FSRS now allocates credit for the officers on your fire department that have IFSAC certifications for all Officer I, Officer II, and Officer III levels. The officers on your fire department are those members that have achieved the rank of Lieutenant or higher. Half of the points available for the officer training section are now derived from the credit allocated for those officers that have an officer certification.

Recommendation: Make sure you submit one of the above officer certifications for all the members that you designate as officers on your active roster that have one.

PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION STATISTICS

Total Number of Graded Areas = 569

Classification	Total Number	Percentage
Class 1	5	.88%
Class 2	33	5.80%
Class 3	67	11.78%
Class 4	179	31.46%
Class 5	144	25.31%
Class 6	83	14.59%
Class 7	28	4.92%
Class 8	4	.70%
Class 9	10	1.76%
Class 10	16	2.80%

Graded Areas Receiving Water Hauling Credit / Large Diameter Hose Credit = 306

Classification	Total Number	Percentage
Class 1	0	0%
Class 2	4	1.31%
Class 3	28	9.15%
Class 4	108	35.29%
Class 5	85	27.78%
Class 6	63	20.59%
Class 7	17	5.56%
Class 8	1	.32%
Class 9	0	0%