

Property Insurance Association of Louisiana

Municipal Division Newsletter

Edition: 2018-2

Professional Grading Assistance Program

PIAL offers a Professional Grading Assistance Program (P-GAP) to help you understand the requirements of the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. In the past year we have experienced a steady increase in the number of fire departments taking advantage of this service. P-GAP meetings can be scheduled either before your next rating or after your last rating to help provide you with detailed information on the rating process. If you haven't had a P-GAP meeting yet please contact your PIAL representative as soon as possible to schedule one at your convenience.

Deployment Analysis Studies

Road Mileage:

During your rating a road mileage study of your graded area will be calculated by our GIS department. This study determines the following three factors:

1. The total number of road miles in your graded area.
2. The number of road miles that are protected within 1.5 miles of your existing engine company locations.
3. The number of road miles that are protected within 2.5 miles of your existing ladder and/or service company locations.

The results of this study will be used to calculate what percentage of your total road miles are protected within your graded area. PIAL will also accept documentation of NFPA 1710 response time data taken from your CAD reports as an alternative to this study. This response time data should include all working and non-working structural alarms occurring during your grading year. Credit will be allocated for whichever of these two methods provides your graded area with the most points. PIAL will need the times that it took for your first due engine company and full complement of apparatus to arrive on scene. For detailed information on how to document your NFPA 1710 response time data please contact your PIAL representative.

Additional Ladder and/or Service Companies:

Your road mileage study will also be used to determine if additional ladder and/or service company locations are needed in your graded area. This evaluation will only be performed on fire stations that do not currently have an existing ladder and/or service company. PIAL will calculate the average number of road miles that are protected within 2.5 miles of your existing ladder and/or service company locations. Any fire stations that only house an engine company that would protect more than half of the average response zone will be considered as needing an additional ladder or service company.

Example: Your graded area has three fire stations. Only two of these stations have an existing ladder or service company which protect a total of forty road miles. The average of these two response zones would be twenty road miles. If the station with only an engine company would protect more than half of the average (or ten road miles) an additional ladder or service company would be needed at that location. PIAL will automatically credit that engine company as an engine/service company to allocate points for the service company equipment carried on that apparatus.

If your NFPA 1710 response time data indicates that you meet the defined standard the requirement for additional ladder or service companies will be waived.

Reminders:

Smoke ejectors and PPV fans:



Smoke ejectors and PPV fans should have a minimum shroud rating of 5000 CFM (Cubic Feet per Minute). If the CFM rating is not shown on the product description placard located on the fan, please have a copy of the specifications sheet that shows the CFM rating available for

your PIAL field representative to review. No credit will be allocated if the CFM rating on your smoke ejector or PPV fan cannot be determined. Keep in mind that a thermal imaging camera that is carried on your ladder or service truck is an acceptable substitute for a smoke ejector or PPV fan.

Post Rating Survey:



The Survey Monkey is a valuable tool for the fire service to provide feedback to PIAL about their rating process. The link to this survey will be emailed to you after your fire protection evaluation has been completed and you have received your

grading results in the mail. Your input on the rating process is important to us so, please take the time to complete and return this survey. The information you provide in this survey is used to help us improve our services. So far this year only 56% of the post rating surveys sent to fire departments have been completed and returned to PIAL. Our goal is that all fire departments will participate in this process to give us your thoughts about your rating experience. This is your opportunity to let us know what we can do better and express any questions or concerns you may have about your recent rating.

Fire Suppression Rating Schedule:

To obtain a copy of the new ISO FSRS please send your request to brabe@pial.org on fire department letterhead. This request must come from the fire chief and include the email address to which you would like the schedule sent.

LA Addendum to the FSRS:

PIAL offers an addendum to the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule as a complimentary document to address items that are not fully explained in the FSRS. This document is available to be viewed or downloaded on our website at <https://www.pial.org>. Under the Products & Services heading on the Home page click on Municipal Division. Towards the bottom of the page there are six blue tabs. Click on the Publications tab to access the Louisiana Addendum to the FSRS.

Town Hall Meetings:



So far this year PIAL has participated in two town hall meetings and we have a third one scheduled in December.

In February an open forum was held in Alexandria that was attended by 78 fire chiefs and fire fighters from the surrounding area. Also, in June another open forum was held in Amite that was attended by 38 fire chiefs and fire fighters from that surrounding area. The next town hall meeting PIAL will be attending is scheduled for December 11, 2018 in the Houma area.

These town hall meetings are being held to inform the fire service of the requirements of the new Fire Suppression Rating Schedule and other aspects of the rating process. This is a question and answer session to address the concerns of those in attendance.

We usually participate in two or three town hall meetings a year so, if your chiefs association is interested in hosting one of these forums please contact PIAL to schedule yours for 2019. We would like to reach as many members of the fire service as possible with these meetings so, please invite those members from your surrounding parishes to attend.

Class 1:



The Property Insurance Association of Louisiana would like to congratulate St. Tammany Parish

Fire District 4 on becoming the sixth graded area in the state to achieve a Class 1 rating. The hard work, dedication and understanding of the rating schedule displayed by Chief Kenneth Moore, his staff and fire fighters is deserving of our recognition.

Community Outreach:



In February of 2018 a letter was sent to those graded areas that experienced a retrogression in their classification after their 2017 rating. These letters were sent to offer our assistance to help explain how their points were derived and to provide them with a better understanding of the requirements of the FSRS.

In March of 2018 a letter was sent those fire departments that have Class 10 ratings. These areas have either not met the minimum requirements of the FSRS or have not participated in an evaluation of their public fire protection services. We offer our services to you to better understand the grading process.

PIAL website:



PIAL is rebranding its website to include valuable new information to help assist the fire service with their ratings. So, when you visit <https://www.pial.org> you will notice that things look a little different. Items related to the fire service can be accessed by choosing the Municipal Division under the Products & Services heading on the Home Page. All the information you are used to accessing is still available but, we have some new features.

One of these new features includes video tutorials on the new FSRS. There is currently a tutorial that expands on the Deployment Analysis Studies explanation that was provided in this document. Several other video tutorials have been completed and will be uploaded to our website in the coming months.

You will also be able to ask for Statements of Position from the Advisory Board Meetings, view presentations that were previously given to the fire service and access the online version of our newsletter.

New resources are being added to our website periodically so, check back often.

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