

# Property Insurance Association of Louisiana

## Municipal Division Newsletter

Edition: 2019-1

The Property Insurance Association of Louisiana would like to thank the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association for inviting us to attend their annual conference in March. This year's conference was held in Bossier City and PIAL was asked to give a presentation about the rating schedule on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The morning session featured a comparison of the similarities and differences between the old rating schedule and the new one that is currently in place. In the afternoon we held an informal question and answer session that was attended by approximately one hundred representatives of the fire service. PIAL hopes that everyone in attendance was pleased with the information that was provided during that time and we look forward to attending next year's conference that will be held in Houma.

### Hydrant Inspections and Flow Testing

Credits in this section of the grading are worth a total of seven points. These points are separated into the two distinct categories of hydrant inspections and hydrant flow testing. The hydrant inspection portion is worth up to four points and the hydrant flow testing portion is worth up to three points. The following discussion will help you maximize your credits.

#### Hydrant Inspections:

As we mentioned above, you can receive up to four points for your hydrant inspection program. Fire hydrant inspections should be performed annually. The standard by which your hydrant inspection program is judged is defined by the American Water Works Association. The procedure described in AWWA M-17 is rather lengthy as it has over twenty steps. Understandably, most fire departments do not completely follow this procedure and that is fine. It is more important that your inspection procedure includes flushing the fire hydrant and opening the fire hydrant under pressure. If you are unable to follow the AWWA procedure there will be a 25% deduction to the points for your inspection program. However, if your hydrant inspections consist of a flushing program and pressure testing you will be awarded an additional twenty points. Even if you don't use your hydrants for fire fighting purposes you should implement an inspection program.

If your graded area has dry hydrants and/or draft sites you should also inspect these locations annually by having a back-flushing and drafting program.

#### Hydrant Flow Testing:

As we mentioned above, you can receive up to three points for your hydrant flow testing program. A main capacity flow test should be performed on all hydrants once every five years. NFPA Standard 291 provides guidance on how to perform a main capacity flow test. A main capacity flow test involves using two or more hydrants on the same main to calculate the flow rate. A cap gauge is placed on the first hydrant to observe the static pressure. After the next hydrant is opened to measure the flow pressure your residual reading will be shown on the first hydrant. If your community has a properly installed and calibrated hydraulic water distribution system computer model that can produce static pressure and flow predictions at 20-psi residual pressure, you may not have to perform hydrant flow tests. PIAL will request their calibration tables to award credit for the flow testing program.

You can receive additional points in this section for having a creditable hydrant marking program. Both AWWA and NFPA 291 provide guidance in this area. The AWWA marks hydrants using main sizes and NFPA marks hydrants based on flow rates.



## PIAL Questionnaire:

When you return your completed questionnaire for your next rating please provide as much supporting documentation as possible. For example: generator test records, fire reports, training records and pump tests. We don't expect you to send documentation for all items addressed in the questionnaire (especially pre-fire plans). However, the time spent gathering and/or reviewing records during your rating will be minimized by providing that documentation in advance. Keep in mind that most documentation can be submitted electronically or in PDF form. Please return all documentation to the address provided by your respective field representative. There is a sample questionnaire on our website but, we ask that you do not use this document in lieu of the paper copy or electronic version because it is the original draft and is not current.

## Standard Operating Procedures:



The new Fire Suppression Rating Schedule offers up to one point for having current Standard Operating Procedures that address certain topics. These SOP's should be *established* procedures that are *implemented and followed* by the fire department. PIAL recommends that these SOP's have a date that this document was created as well as a date that these procedures were reviewed or revised as necessary. The complete list of creditable Standard Operating Procedures is available in PIAL's Addendum to the FSRs and the 2018-1 edition of our newsletter.

## Hose Testing:



Fire hose should be tested annually to receive full credit. Small diameter fire hose should be tested to 300 PSI and large diameter fire hose should be tested to 200 PSI (or the pressure that is recommended by the manufacturer).

## Pump Testing:



Fire pumps should be tested annually to NFPA Standard 1911 and *pass* that test to receive full credit. A failed pump test is NOT a creditable pump test. If a pump fails a test, PIAL will request a passing pump test from a previous year to calculate your creditable testing interval.



Since our last newsletter PIAL has attended two town hall meetings located in Houma and Vidalia. The next town hall meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2019 in West Monroe. This meeting will be held at the West Monroe City Council Chambers from 6:00 till 9:00 PM. The City Council Chambers is located at 2305 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street in West Monroe. If the fire service representatives in your area would like to host a town hall meeting please contact us for scheduling.



The PIAL website now contains twenty informative video tutorials explaining various sections of the new Fire Suppression Rating Schedule. These tutorials can be accessed by choosing the Municipal

Division tab under the Products & Services heading on the Home Page at <https://www.pial.org>.

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