

# Property Insurance Association of Louisiana

## Municipal Division Newsletter

Edition: 2021-1.1



*The Property Insurance Association of Louisiana would like to congratulate Fire Chief Thomas Crowder of the Bastrop Fire Department, Fire Chief Tracey Normand of the Gonzales Fire Department, Fire Chief Gerard Tarleton of the St. George Fire Department and Fire Chief Danny Kimble of the Zachary Fire Department on achieving a Class 1 rating. These fire chiefs and their staffs should be recognized for their efforts in bringing their communities together to make these achievements possible to offer improved fire protection to their respective graded areas. The hard work and dedication of these communities is truly deserving of our recognition.*

*Louisiana now has 13 Class 1 departments, including both large and small communities. In addition to the above, the following departments have also been previously rated as Class 1 departments: Baton Rouge, Jefferson Parish East Bank Consolidated Fire Dept., New Orleans, Kenner, Shreveport, Monroe, West Monroe, Bossier City, St. Tammany Parish Fire Dist. 4.*

TO: LOUISIANA FIRE CHIEFS

RE: PIAL POLICY ON PPC GRADINGS DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

The Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (“PIAL”) has received questions from fire chiefs and others concerning PIAL’s expectations of fire departments in connection with Public Protection Classification (“PPC”) gradings and activities during the existence of the state of emergency declared by the Governor of Louisiana as a result of the COVID-19 virus and the limitations on activities put into effect as a result thereof. In order to provide assurance to the fire service and to ensure uniformity, the following is the policy of PIAL which will be followed with respect to activities and gradings scheduled to be conducted during the period of the state of emergency, which commenced on March 11, 2020.

Effective Dates: This policy shall be in effect for the longer of (1) 180 days from the date of the declaration of emergency or the termination of the declaration of emergency relating to COVID-19.

General: As a statement of general principle, PIAL is not requiring fire departments to undertake actions or activities in connection with a grading which would contradict the provisions or purpose of the emergency declaration. PIAL will not penalize fire departments in a PPC grading for not undertaking activities during the effective period of this policy which would contradict the provisions or purpose of the declaration of emergency.

For gradings Scheduled for 2021: For gradings scheduled to be conducted in 2021, such gradings would normally use data from 2020. Due to the existence of the state of emergency, and the restrictions on activities during the state of emergency which would otherwise occur, PIAL will accept the following data, at the option of the fire department: (1) the fire department’s data from 2019; or (2) data from the period of time in 2020 which excludes the time period in which the COVID-19 declaration of emergency is in effect, which will then be annualized for the year 2020.

Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to Blaine Rabe, Municipal Division Manager of PIAL, at [brabe@pial.org](mailto:brabe@pial.org).

**QUESTION:** Has PIAL changed anything this year during the State of Emergency proclaimed by the State of Louisiana?

**ANSWER:** PIAL has taken precautions during this pandemic to limit exposure of PPC representatives and the fire service by allowing hydrant flows from the last rating to be used if there have been no improvements to the water system since the last rating. PIAL has also allowed for water shuttles to be videoed and emailed to your field representative for acceptance. Instructions from your field representative will be given to you to follow this process. This will hopefully limit exposure of all personnel involved if safety measures are followed.

**City Print:**

A city print is a listing of the commercial properties PIAL has been asked to inspect within your graded area. It is a good idea to periodically review this document for accuracy. Simply email your field representative to request a copy of a city print for your graded area.



If the fire service representatives in your area would like to host a town hall meeting, please contact us for scheduling.

**Virtual Training:**



As coming from the COVID Pandemic, fire departments are moving towards Virtual Training. Fire Suppression Training conducted using Teams, Zoom or another product will receive 100% credit for this type of

training. Virtual Training will be allocated full credit when the instructor and attendees are able to participate in a training session where questions can be asked and answered while conducting training.

CBT training, on the other hand, is when the student is participating in an “online” training session with NO availability of asking questions of the instructor.

Items eligible for this training credit includes:

- Company Training – up to 100%
- Classes for Officers – up to 100%

- Driver/Operator Training – up to 100% (Departmental Apparatus)
- New Driver/Operator Training – up to 100%
- Training on Hazardous Materials – up to 100%

Virtual Training (VT) hours need to be presented to PIAL as separate hours so proper credit can be allocated.

**Statement of Position –**

The latest Statement of Position by the PIAL Board of Directors on December 18, 2020 –

**Off-Duty Response Credit – 2:1 Credit**

It was voted at the November 18, 2020 Advisory Committee Meeting and approved at the December 10, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting that the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL) will credit each on-call and off-duty firefighter as one-half of an on-duty firefighter.

**Additional On-Duty Credit for Scheduled Events**

PIAL will award credit for time accumulated at scheduled events within the graded area by active on-call and/or active off-duty members. For credit, these events must be conducted within the fire protection area at locations where first responding apparatus and gear are immediately available. During the time of such event(s), members in attendance will be credited as on-duty and considered ready to immediately respond to an emergency in their graded area.

Examples of qualifying events:

- Scheduled Training Meetings
- Scheduled Department Meetings
- Scheduled Department Workdays

Records of scheduled events (including attendees) that occurred during the review period shall be provided to the PIAL Field Representative or submitted with the completed questionnaire for credit to be allocated. The hours submitted **shall** be totaled for the grading period and added to the graded area as On-Duty Credit.

**Example** – A fire department provides documentation of all the hours during the grading period for the Additional On-Duty Staffing and it totaled up to 10,000 hours. They have a staffing average of 1.5 members for the same grading period and you added the 10,000/8,760 (1.14). The new daily staffing average is 2.64 for the grading period.

pandemics and natural disasters. You may also notice other minor changes, usually typographical or grammatical in nature, that don't affect the spirit and intent of the document. All substantive changes will be identified by red text and will have markers in the margins. Stay tuned for more to come....

## LA FSRS Addendum Changes:

**Training Library** - The Training Library shall consist of books (or current electronic equivalents) found in Figure 3. Materials shall meet the general criteria of the required book in Item 3. If a substitute manual is used, documentation that the substitute manual meets the same criteria as the required manual shall be provided.

## Louisiana Addendum to the (FSRS) Fire Suppression Rating Schedule

When the current LA Addendum to the FSRS was written in 2013, it was meant to be a "living document" that would adapt to changes in the fire service, the standards and guidelines published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), and the American Water Works Association (AWWA). The first update to the LA Addendum occurred in 2016 and, after 4 years, it's once again time to revisit this document. In conjunction with the PIAL Advisory Committee, we are currently conducting this review and on approval by the PIAL Board of Directors, an update will be published. Most of the items going into the revised document are previously published Statements of Position made by the PIAL Advisory Committee that can be found by selecting the Municipal Division option under the Products and Services drop-down menu on our website ([www.pial.org](http://www.pial.org)). There are also a few other items related to additional credits being offered by PIAL as well as items related to



## Contacts:

### Blaine Rabe'

- (504) 836-7988 (Office)
- (504) 432-2263 (Cell)
- [brabe@pial.org](mailto:brabe@pial.org)

### Randy Loe

- (318) 518-1211
- [rloe@pial.org](mailto:rloe@pial.org)

### Dwayne Quebedeaux

- (337) 344-9340
- [dquebedeaux@pial.org](mailto:dquebedeaux@pial.org)

### Kenny Weber

- (504) 432-6596
- [kweber@pial.org](mailto:kweber@pial.org)

### Paul Reeson

- (504) 256-3211
- [preeson@pial.org](mailto:preeson@pial.org)

### Robert Guillet

- (337) 315-9891
- [rguillet@pial.org](mailto:rguillet@pial.org)

### David Wilson

- (318) 210-6229
- [dwilson@pial.org](mailto:dwilson@pial.org)