



JASPER JOURNAL

A Quarterly Newsletter for the Citizens of Jasper

OPEN BURN ORDINANCE.

If you plan on doing any open burns within the city limits of Jasper, please call the Jasper Fire Department at 205.221.8509 to obtain permission. Open burns require a Verbal or Written Permit depending on the type of burn. Failure to obtain permission is a violation of the Open Burn Ordinance and may result in a fine.

Thank you.

CONTACT US:

CITY HALL

205.221.2100

[jaspercocityhall@jaspercocity.com](mailto:jaspercityhall@jaspercocity.com)

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

205.221.8533

license@jaspercocity.com

MUNICIPAL COURT

205.221.4254

municipalcourt@jaspercocity.com

CIVIL SERVICE

205.221.8505

civilservice@jaspercocity.com

JASPER FIRE DEPARTMENT

205.221.8509

firechief@jaspercocity.com

JASPER POLICE DEPARTMENT

205.221.2121 OR 911

PUBLIC WORKS

205.221.8529

street@jaspercocity.com

sanitation@jaspercocity.com

planning@jaspercocity.com

inspection@jaspercocity.com

events@jaspercocity.com

JASPER PUBLIC LIBRARY

205.221.8512



JASPER FIRE DEPARTMENT IMPROVES CITY'S ISO RATING

In April 2013, David Clark became the Fire Chief of the Jasper Fire Department. Not long after that appointment, he received a call from the Insurance Service Office (ISO) informing him that they would be making their regular evaluation within a year. Clark, who has been with Jasper Fire Department for twenty-five years, immediately began to take measures to improve the city's ISO rating. When ISO came for their evaluation of Jasper, they issued the city a 4-4X rating. This was an improvement over the previous 5-9 ISO rating.

This improvement in rating has benefited numerous residents and business owners throughout the city. Clark has received calls of gratitude, with some individuals saving as much as \$3,000 per year on their insurance premiums.

Insurance Service Office is an advisory and rating organization that provides statistical information on risk. For many years the "ISO Rating" has had a large impact on most fire departments. The ISO (PPC) rating is from 10 - 1. With "1" being the best. Many insurance companies calculate rates based upon the ISO rating. ISO comes to your city and assesses a Public Protection Classification. Just about every aspect of a city and a fire department is evaluated in determining the ISO rating. Points are given for everything from the training aids a fire department owns to the distance between fire hydrants. For example, ISO wants fire departments to conduct 20 hours of training per man, each month, in order to maximize points for every training aid.

(Story continued on back)



FIRE DEPARTMENT STORY CONTINUED...

Clark said that there were numerous steps taken to improve Jasper's ISO rating. This included:

- The department started running fire trucks for the appropriate coverage areas. This included manning the ladder truck for commercial properties and responding the engine out of Fire Station No. 2. The department currently runs three stations within the city.
- The Mayor allowed the department to restart multi-company training.
- Mayor Sonny Posey allowed Chief Clark to purchase computer software that allows the department to document and demonstrate to ISO the required training records of the fire department employees. These trainings include multi-company training (the Fire Department trains 3 hours a day, 6 days a week for on-shift company training, including equipment), 4 hours a month of night training, officer training, and required training for driving, HAZMAT, OSHA, etc. The software also allowed the ability to show the totals of emergency runs responded to and the required documentation of apparatus and personnel that responded to each incident.
- The Mayor and City Council allowed the fire department to purchase needed equipment required by ISO to better equip all of the apparatus (fire trucks). Equipment included dry chemical extinguishers on fire trucks, the required amount of pike poles and other firefighting equipment.
- The Jasper City Council approved the purchase of a new engine, after the oldest truck became inoperable. After a few months, the city government approved for the repair of the older engine as a reserve vehicle, which is required for a city of Jasper's size. The Mayor and City Council also approved to replace the older rescue truck. That older truck currently serves as a HAZMAT response truck. Now, Jasper complies with ISO in apparatus – which is a ladder truck, 3 response engines, a reserve engine and our new rescue truck.
- Clark was also given permission to designate Jasper Fire Marshal Alan Clark as his Deputy Chief. Deputy Chief Clark takes care of all fire safety issues within the city and pre-fire planning and inspections that comply with ISO. Furthermore, Dante Fields was designated as Captain of Training (training officer). He is responsible for all training and keeps it current with ISO standards.
- The number of Captains and Lieutenants was increased to the amount necessary to adequately man the stations within the city with officers.

“We are always striving for better,” stated Fire Chief David Clark. “We are working toward an even better rating on our next evaluation.” ISO will re-evaluate Jasper in 5-7 years.

Chief Clark said he wanted to thank the City of Jasper leaders for the support on his recommendations to acquire the needed resources for the safety of the department, the citizens and to lower the ISO Rating. This would not have been possible without their support or the dedication of the Jasper Fire Department personnel that have utilized these resources to the fullest in protecting the City of Jasper. Chief Clark said he is fortunate to have this great group of Fire Personnel under his command and he knows the citizens of Jasper benefit daily from their dedication and professionalism.

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FOLLOW US ON TWITTER | [@JasperAlabama](https://twitter.com/JasperAlabama)**

Jasper's Fire Department has a coverage area of 30 square miles. There are 15 structures that are 3 stories and above. The city has approximately 14,500 residents, with the department averaging around 170 calls per month – this includes fire, rescue and medical. The City of Jasper Fire Department's command structure is currently comprised of 1 Fire Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 1 Captain of Training, 3 Shift Captains, 6 Shift Lieutenants, 18 Career Firefighters, 12 Volunteer Firefighter positions, one part-time Fire Clerk (inputs NFIRS reporting of the approximately 2,000 calls a year and handles daily office needs) and one part-time laborer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 10AM at City Hall:

**April 5, 2016, April 19, 2016,
May 3, 2016, May 17, 2016,
June 7, 2016, June 21, 2016**

2nd ANNUAL SAFE KIDS EXPO

Saturday, April 16, 2016

PATH TO THE FOOTHILLS

Saturday, April 16, 2016

WALKER COUNTY DAY

Saturday, April 30, 2016

SUNSET AT SIMMONS 5K

Friday, May 6, 2016

ART IN THE PARK

Saturday, May 7, 2016

DOWNTOWN THROWDOWN

Saturday, May 14 &

Sunday, May 15, 2016

PATH TO THE FOOTHILLS

Saturday, May 14, 2016

TALLULAH BANKHEAD TRIBUTE

& HALF MARATHON

Friday, June 10 &

Saturday, June 11, 2016

PATH TO THE FOOTHILLS

Saturday, June 18, 2016

CALL THE MEMORIAL PARK

NATATORIUM FOR CLASS INFO

205.384.9617

**FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT OUR
ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDAR**