



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michael B. Urquides, Fire Chief

**Date:** November 18, 2015

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

**Contact:** Dorothy Priolo, Deputy Fire Marshal  
Public Information Officer  
Monterey County Regional Fire District  
[dpriolo@mcrfd.org](mailto:dpriolo@mcrfd.org)  
(831) 596-4716

### **MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE DISTRICT ISSUED IMPROVED PROTECTION CLASS RATING**

*Effective November 1, 2015, insurance companies are now able to utilize an improved rating when issuing property insurance policies to customers within the Monterey County Regional Fire District. After a detailed analysis of the structural fire suppression capabilities of the Monterey County Regional Fire District, the Insurance Services Office ("ISO") has increased the fire district's Public Protection Class™ rating from 5 to 3 for properties located within 5 miles of any of the District's six fire stations, including Mid-Valley and Carmel Valley Village. For properties located more than 5 miles from the regional fire district's stations, this rating remains the same.*

*According to Fire Chief Michael Urquides, "The ISO Public Protection Class™ system examines many aspects of the fire district's ability to respond to structure fires, including equipment, delivery of water, training, and communications capabilities. In the years since the District's last rating in 2009 we have vastly improved our fire protection service and response times. ISO has recognized these improvements and increased our rating accordingly."*

*Representatives from ISO's Public Protection Class™ program periodically review the capabilities of local fire agencies and assign a "Public Protection Class" rating. Once the analysis is complete, the appropriate Public Protection Class™ rating is issued and insurance carriers can use the PPC™ as part of their insurance premium calculations. All residents and business owners located within five miles of a Monterey County Regional Fire District's station should consider contacting their fire insurance carrier to determine whether their premiums can be reduced based on our improved Public Protection Class™ rating.*

*The unincorporated areas of the county located within Monterey County Regional Fire District's service area include the northern Salinas Valley outside Salinas (Chualar, Bolsa Knolls, etc.), the Highway 68 corridor east of Olmsted Road, the Laureles Grade area, Carmel Valley, Mid Carmel Valley and the Santa Lucia Preserve.*

*Questions regarding Monterey County Regional Fire District's 2015 Public Protection Class™ rating may be directed to Fire Chief Michael Urquides at (831) 596-4725.*

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