FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ridge Road Fire District Achieves Highest Possible ISO Class 1 Rating

ROCHESTER, NY — The Ridge Road Fire District has achieved an ISO Class 1 Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating, the highest possible rating awarded through the Insurance Services Office (ISO) fire protection evaluation process.

For residents and businesses in the Ridge Road Fire District, the rating is an independent recognition of the community's overall fire protection system — including staffing, training, equipment, emergency communications, water supply, and community risk reduction. Only about 1.4% of communities evaluated nationwide currently hold an ISO Class 1 rating.

"This achievement reflects the work and commitment of our entire organization," said Ridge Road Fire District Fire Chief Sean McGarry. "It is the result of years of planning, training,

investment, and continuous evaluation. Most importantly, it represents our commitment to providing the highest level of fire and emergency services possible to the residents and businesses we serve."

A Rare Combination of Distinctions

Ridge Road's Class 1 rating is particularly significant because the District also holds international accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), a distinction it has maintained since 2005.

CFAI accreditation is a rigorous process that includes comprehensive self-assessment, peer review, on-site verification and validation, and formal review by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

ISO Class 1 and CFAI accreditation recognize different aspects of fire service performance. ISO Class 1 recognizes the strength of the community's overall fire protection system, while CFAI accreditation evaluates the organization more broadly, including planning, performance, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Ridge Road and the City of Rochester Fire Depeartment are currently the only *two* fire departments in New York State to hold both distinctions.

What It Means for Residents and Businesses

The Class 1 rating may also have implications for property insurance. Insurance companies may use ISO Public Protection Classification information when making decisions about property insurance coverage, deductibles, and pricing.

In general, communities with stronger PPC ratings may receive lower property insurance rates when other factors are equal. Individual insurance companies determine their own rates based on their underwriting practices and other factors.

The District encourages homeowners and business owners to contact their insurance provider to ask whether the new Class 1 rating may affect their individual property insurance rates.

The Work Behind the Rating

The rating reflects the dedication and service performed by Ridge Road personnel every day. During 2025, the District:

- Responded to more than 6,100 emergency calls
- Completed more than 52,000 hours of firefighter training
- Provided fire safety education to nearly 4,900 children
- Provided fire and fall prevention education to nearly 400 senior residents

“This recognition belongs to the men and women of the Ridge Road Fire District who work every day to maintain a high standard of service,” McGarry said. “It also reflects the support and partnership of our Board of Fire Commissioners, the Monroe County Emergency Communications Center, the Monroe County Water Authority, our neighboring fire departments and, most importantly, the residents we are privileged to serve.”

About the Ridge Road Fire District

Established in 1922, the Ridge Road Fire District provides 24-hour emergency services from three fire stations covering approximately 16 square miles in the southern portion of the Town of Greece. The District is a fully career department that provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, fire prevention, public education, and community outreach services.