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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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City of Greenwood Receives ISO Rating of 2

Rating Shows Commitments Made by the City and Greenwood CPW

Greenwood, SC – The City of Greenwood has received official notification from the Insurance Service Office (ISO) of an upgrade to the City's public fire protection classification grade.

The Greenwood Fire Department was surveyed by ISO this past March. Based on the survey, the Department's class rating will become a two (2) effective November 1, 2006. On ISO's ten-point scale, with one (1) being the best and ten (10) being the worst, the Department's rating has improved from a three (3) to a two (2).

This is an exemplary fire suppression rating and is the first time in the City's history that it has received such an excellent ISO score. Of the 683 fire departments in South Carolina, there are only 28 with a class two (2) designation or better. Statewide, that places the City of Greenwood Fire Department in the top 4.1 percent.

"The announcement of our improved ISO rating represents City Council and the Commissioners of Public Work's commitment to the citizens of Greenwood," said Mayor Floyd Nicholson. "City Council authorized the construction of two substations since our last ISO review. We have also increased funding for the hiring of more fire fighters and equipment upgrades. I commend the Commissioners efforts to upgrade the City's water distribution system over the last decade," Nicholson continued.

The City of Greenwood Fire Department was last reviewed by ISO in 1982. Since 1982, Greenwood City Council authorized funding to construct Fire Station Number Two located at 1213 Grace Street in 1992. In 2005, Council funded the construction of Fire Station Number Three located at the corner of Jenkins Springs Road and By-Pass 225.

ISO is the leading supplier of statistical, underwriting, and actuarial information to the property/casualty insurance industry and is used by most insurers to calculate the premiums for residential, commercial and industrial subscribers. ISO evaluates each community according to a uniform set of criteria as defined in nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the American Water Works Association. Using this system, ISO reviews the fire suppression capabilities of a community and assigns a public protection classification number. Many fire insurance underwriters then voluntarily employ this 10-point scale as a major component when determining the premium paid by policyholders.

Savings on insurance premiums is dependent on the type of insurance, type of construction, mortgage, and other factors. Individuals should consult their insurance company for specific information and report the upcoming City of Greenwood Fire Department's ISO rating change to their agent.

“I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication to excellence our firefighters exhibit on a day to day basis,” said Greenwood Fire Chief Terry Strange. “The ISO Class 2 designation is verification of their professionalism and commitment. This award is quite extraordinary, when you consider that ISO only graded our department on our fire suppression capability. ISO didn’t factor in our many other life-saving efforts such as confined space, trench, and technical rescue as well as hazardous materials response. All of these services are provided by the same group of highly trained and motivated personnel.”

The ISO review is broken into three separately evaluated categories, which are totaled to reach the final score. They are as follows:

Fire Department: This accounts for the largest part (50%) of the total classification, which focuses on items such as engine companies, ladder or service companies, distribution of fire stations and fire companies, equipment carried on apparatus, pumping capacity, reserve apparatus, department staffing and training.

Water Supply System: This is the second major portion (40%) of the total classification highlighting the water supply a community uses for fire suppression, including hydrant size, type, and installation, as well as the inspection frequency and condition of fire hydrants.

Fire Alarm and Communications Systems: This accounts for the community’s ability to handle and dispatch fire alarms and counts for 10% of the final grade.

"The Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works are elated with the announcement of the City Fire Department's improved ISO rating," said CPW General Manager Steve Reeves. "Over the last decade, the Commissioners have made significant investments to improve the City's water distribution system. These improvements increase water pressure, thereby providing better fire protection. We have also added a significant number of new fire hydrants," Reeves continued.

“I am very proud of the teamwork between the City, Greenwood CPW, and Greenwood County Emergency Communications,” said Greenwood City Manager Steve Brown. “I thank City Council for giving our staff the tools necessary to provide exemplary services to the citizens of Greenwood. I commend Fire Chief Terry Strange and his staff for this major accomplishment,” Brown concluded.

For additional information about Insurance Services Office, visit www.iso.com. Learn more about the City of Greenwood Fire Department by visiting www.cityofgreenwoodsc.com.

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