



PRESS RELEASE

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**BESSEMER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT ACHIEVES ISO CLASS 3**



**BESSEMER CITY, N.C.** – The City of Bessemer City is pleased to announce that the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), N.C. Department of Insurance, has recently completed an evaluation of the Bessemer City Fire Department's (BCFD) fire insurance classification. BCFD's classification will change from an ISO protection class rating level 5 to a level 3 in December 2023. ISO Level 3 is the highest rating in the department's history!

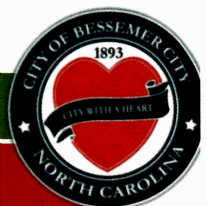
This achievement is due to the hard work of the BCFD staff and volunteers who work diligently to protect citizens and property in Bessemer City. This rating indicates that BCFD continues to make improvements and investments built on a solid framework of commitment and service. This higher rating can also significantly lower insurance rates within Bessemer City's Fire District.

More information about ISO ratings can be found at [www.ncosfm.gov](http://www.ncosfm.gov)

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NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**INSURANCE**  
OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

**CERTIFICATE OF FIRE DISTRICT RATING**

Inspections are conducted by officials with the North Carolina Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal and required on a regular basis as part of the North Carolina Response Ratings System. Routine inspections assess proper staffing levels, sufficient equipment, proper maintenance of equipment, communications capabilities and water source availability, among other things.

**BESSEMER CITY**

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FIRE DISTRICT

**3**

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RATING

**DECEMBER 1, 2023**

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EFFECTIVE DATE



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**MIKE CAUSEY**  
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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**BRIAN TAYLOR**  
CHIEF STATE FIRE MARSHAL



**RATINGS AND INSPECTIONS**

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MIKE CAUSEY, INSURANCE COMMISSIONER & STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
BRIAN TAYLOR, CHIEF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

For Immediate Release

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August 25, 2023

## Fire District Receives New Rating After Inspection

### State Officials Award New District Rating

**RALEIGH** - North Carolina Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey announced today that the following Fire Districts completed their routine inspection and received the listed rating, on listed effective dates. The inspection, conducted by officials with the Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), is required on a regular basis as part of the North Carolina Response Rating System (NCRRS). Among other things, the routine inspections look for proper staffing levels, sufficient equipment, proper maintenance of equipment, communications capabilities and availability of a water source.

District	Type	Rating	Effective
=====	=====	=====	=====
Bessemer City	Municipal	3	12/01/2023

The NCRRS rating system ranges from one (highest) to 10 (not recognized as a certified fire department by the state), with most rural departments falling into the 9S category. While lower ratings do not necessarily indicate poor service, a higher rating does suggest that a department is overall better equipped to respond to fires in its district. Higher ratings can also significantly lower homeowners insurance rates in that fire district.

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Gordon for the department's performance and for the hard work of all the department members," said Commissioner Causey. "The citizens in the Town of these districts should rest easy knowing they have a fine group of firefighters protecting them and their property in case of an emergency."

State law requires OSFM officials to inspect departments serving districts of 100,000 people or less, which makes up all but twelve of the state's fire districts.

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