



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Time in History, Hinds County Fire Ratings Lower Insurance Cost For Residents

Hinds County, MS- The Hinds County Board of Supervisors is extremely excited to highlight the improvement of two additional Fire Ratings Districts that were completed by the Mississippi State Rating Bureau. The Byram Volunteer Fire Department improved its ratings from a Class 10 to a 6 rating, effective January 6, 2017. This facility is located 5 miles from the Davis Road Fire Station. The City of Terry benefited from the new rating improving from a Class 8 to a 7 rating. Lower ratings attract residents to Hinds County, boosting economic development, due to a reduction in insurance rates.

Hinds County has established 12 Volunteer Fire Departments and eight of those districts have been evaluated and received lower ratings. The County will be working very diligently with the remaining communities of Utica, Bench, Bolton and West Hinds, to lower the rating classification of their volunteer fire departments, by the end of 2017, in an effort to decrease fire insurance rates for residents living within 5 miles of each fire station.

This evaluation was not conducted for property loss prevention or life safety purposes; therefore, no recommendations will be made concerning these two issues. "*Hinds County Board of Supervisors*

is excited about this great accomplishment for the residents we serve to maintain affordable insurance”, stated Daryl McQuirter, Board President. "This is the first time in the history of Hinds County that lowering fire ratings have been achieved and this achievement can decrease annual homeowners insurance in the County by 40%, stated Ricky Moore, Director of Emergency Management Operations.

The criteria for Hinds County to receive a reduced rate is based on mandatory training of personnel, maintaining accurate files, and having a reliable Class A pumper with sufficient water supply in each district. The purchase of new equipment last year was instrumental in obtaining lower ratings in the eight evaluated Volunteer Fire Departments within the County. Hinds County is dedicated to updating and purchasing reliable equipment for Fire Fighters to protect their residents. Hinds County is proactively searching for new areas to establish new Fire Stations that didn't benefit from the recent ratings and classifications. Our goal at Hinds County is to maintain a rating classification that can benefit all residents living in our county, to obtain affordable insurance.

About Hinds County

Hinds County Board of Supervisors is extremely proud of the improvements that are occurring in our great County, *"A Very Special Place"*.

Hinds County has so much to offer approximately 250,000 residents and the hundreds of thousands of visitors we greet each year. From the fast-paced, emerging, revitalized downtown district of the State's capital city, to the charming, peaceful, fields of the countryside, our county has many things to offer for everyone.

The County has a rich southern history with a bright, diverse future and is an outstanding place to live, work, play and raise your family. Experience Hinds County and find out why we welcome you to the County!

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