

Hickory

CITY SNIPPETS

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HICKORY FIRE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS ISO CLASS 1 RATING

The City of Hickory Fire Department has again received the distinction of earning a Class 1 Public Protection Classification rating, commonly known as an ISO rating, by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). ISO is an organization that independently evaluates fire-protection efforts in communities across the United States. An ISO Class 1 rating is the highest rating possible and ranks the Hickory Fire Department among the nation's best, as less than 1% of fire departments achieve this distinction.

An ISO (Insurance Services Office) fire score rating is determined based on how well a local fire department can protect its community. Insurance companies use this score to help set property insurance rates because a home or business that is less likely to be severely damaged or destroyed by fire costs less to insure. Hickory's Class 1 rating validates that Hickory Fire Department provides residents, visitors, and businesses with industry-leading fire protection services.

Hickory was the 14th fire department in North Carolina to achieve an ISO Class 1 rating. This accomplishment was a team effort that included City of Hickory Public Utilities, Catawba County Communications, and Hickory Fire Department.

Hickory Fire Chief Matt Hutchinson stated, "The City of Hickory Fire Department continues to have a proud tradition of providing excellent service and will continue to maintain the high standards expected by our community. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment."

What is an ISO Rating?

ISO (Insurance Services Office) is an insurance advisory organization that creates ratings based on specific criteria to determine how well equipped a fire department is to put out fires in their communities. The rating scale ranges from 1 (highest) to 10 (no recognized fire protection), with most rural districts falling into the 9S category.

How is the ISO Score Determined?

An inspection is conducted by officials with the North Carolina Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The 100-point scale is based on four key areas: the fire department's staffing, capabilities, training, and equipment, etc. (50 points); the city's water supply/infrastructure (40 points); emergency communication systems (10 points); and community risk reduction programs (extra credit of up to 5.5 points).

How ISO Fire Ratings Affects Your Community?

A higher rating suggests that a department is overall better equipped to respond to fires in its district. Higher ratings can also significantly lower insurance rates in that fire district.





HICKORY CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 2 & 16

Tuesday, July 21

6 p.m.

Hickory City Hall

HickoryNC.gov

SAILS ORIGINAL MUSIC SERIES

Every Friday in June

7 p.m.

Union Square, Downtown

HickoryNC.gov/SailsMusic

UNEARTH A STORY SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

June 1 through August 1

Hickory Public Library

INDEPENDENCE DAY CITY CLOSURES

Friday, July 3

SATURDAY SCREENINGS

2nd and 4th Saturdays
of July and August

July 11: Pirates of the Caribbean:

The Curse of the Black Pearl

July 25: A League of Their Own

August 8: Inside Out

August 22: A Minecraft Movie

8:30 p.m.

Union Square, Downtown

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RECYCLING RIGHT: TRASH THE TANGLERS

Doing your part to recycle helps keep valuable materials out of the landfill, but only when the right items go into the recycling bin. One of the most common contaminants that cause big problems in the recycling process are tangles like cords and hoses. Keeping these items out of your recycling rollout protects the entire system and ensures your efforts truly make a difference.



Tanglers like cords, hoses, and clothes hangers tangle in the machinery at recycling facilities, causing equipment breakdowns and safety hazards. These items cannot be processed in curbside recycling. Electrical, charging, and Christmas light cords can be taken to your local household hazardous waste event or another approved site for these cords. Metal clothes hangers can be taken back to the dry cleaners where you received them. Garden hoses are to be thrown away.

It only takes one contaminated recycling cart to contaminate an entire collection truck. That's why recycling correctly is a shared responsibility. When residents recycle right, more materials make it to the recycling center and fewer end up in the landfill. Together, we can keep Hickory's recycling stream clean, efficient, and sustainable for years to come. Thanks for doing your part to recycle smart!

For more information about residential recycling in the City of Hickory and helpful tips for recycling right at home and in the office, visit the City of Hickory website, www.hickorync.gov/sanitation.

DROUGHT UPDATES

The City of Hickory and communities across the Catawba River Basin continue to feel the serious impacts of dry weather. Reduced lake storage, decreasing streamflows, and ongoing drought conditions have created a situation that requires immediate action. Drought is a naturally occurring part of our climate cycle, and while we can't control rainfall, we can control how we manage our water resources—together.

Water conservation is a shared responsibility. It protects our local water supply, supports regional stability, and helps ensure the Catawba River Basin remains a healthy and reliable resource for everyone. For the latest information about current drought conditions and water use restrictions, visit www.hickorync.gov/drought, scan the QR code, or contact Public Utilities at 828-323-7427.

