



Municipal Technical Advisory Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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ISO Ratings of TN Fire Departments

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

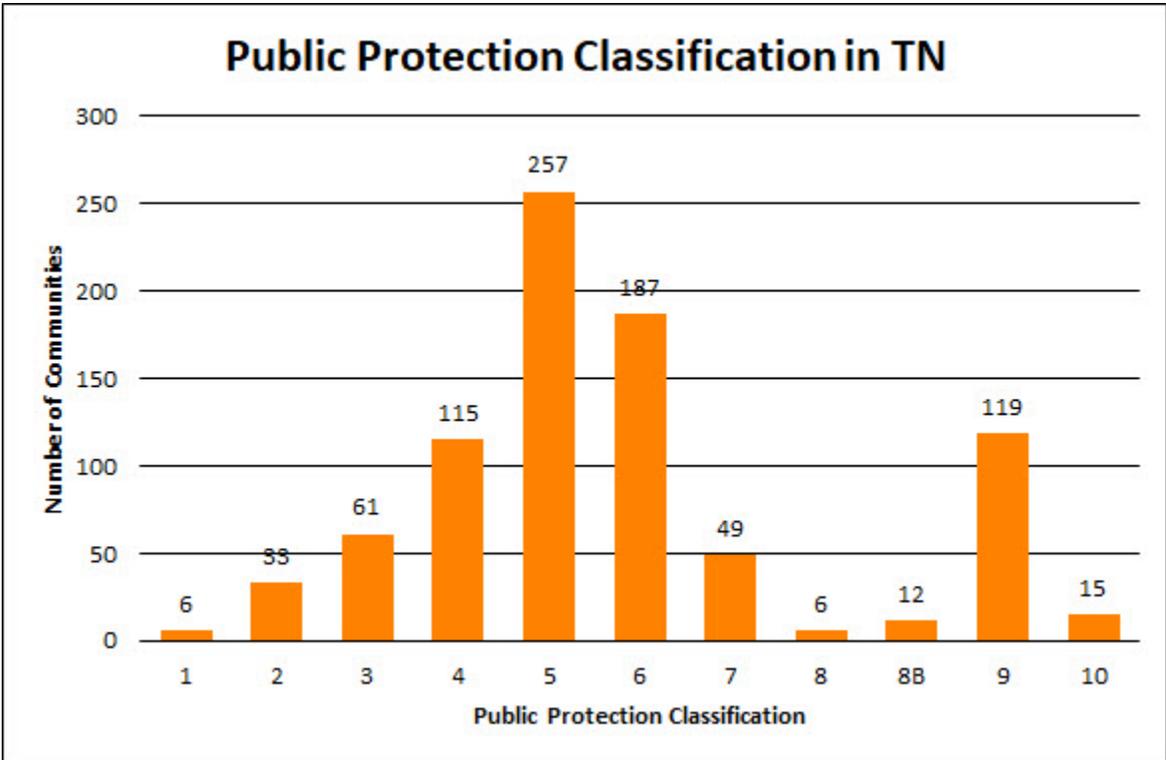
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Reference Number: MTAS-413



Of the 860 ISO-classified communities in Tennessee, 137, or 15.89 percent, are grade 9, as they meet only minimum standards.

The Tennessee ISO ratings are consistent with national ratings, as more than 18 percent of the fire districts in the United States have a Class 9 rating, which indicates the minimum recognized standard of fire protection.

While many Tennessee cities and utility districts with water systems have unaccounted-for water losses from 10 percent to as much as 50 percent, amounting to hundreds of thousands of gallons annually, the typical residential fire requires approximately 4,500 gallons for extinguishment, cleanup, and refilling tanks. Fire department usage is a mere drop in the bucket in comparison to water loss from leakage. A new Tennessee statute requires that cities report their unaccounted-for water losses annually. “The State of Arkansas addressed this problem in statutes indicating that nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prevent county, municipal, or local water utilities or associations from contributing water free of charge for fire fighting and training activities to volunteer fire departments and districts. ^[9] The statute encourages a commitment to better fire service with the supply of water.

[9] Arkansas Code Annotated 14-284-408. Contribution; funds; water.

DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.

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