

This is a follow up to our conversation we had yesterday regarding your new ISO grading and a policy change by ISO regarding their witnessing of drills for grading areas without water mains. First congratulations to you, the Freeport FD, and the surrounding communities who helped lower Freeport to ISO Class 3 in the hydrant areas and Class 4 (formerly Class 9) in the non-hydrant areas. That was a job well done and we were pleased to assist you in the process.

The following information should be passed on to the Maine Fire Chiefs:

I received an email from Paul Levesque yesterday stating that ISO no longer needs to witness the required drills i.e. tanker shuttle and hose relays. For communities to lower the Class 9 areas they will still need to file the required paperwork with ISO who will review the paperwork to be sure all required information is included, including a drill where a minimum of 250 gpm was delivered for 1 hour without an interruption. The paperwork can be extensive and must include certification of water sources.

This is a major change and may be changed back at any time, but for now this is ISO policy. ISO will still need to visit the community to collect other needed information but will no longer witness the drills.

If any community is considering lowering their ISO Class 9 areas now would be a good time to do it.

My brother and I are willing to help communities lower the Class 9 areas by working with them to conduct drills and fill out all necessary paperwork and reports that ISO requires. We have worked with several communities including Freeport, Scarborough, Gorham, Caribou, and Union and all have lowered their ISO Classes (Union has not received their final results yet). We feel that it is important that communities work on the required drills to become proficient in moving water by both a tanker shuttle and hose relay operation to maximize the amount of water delivered. The benefits are two fold, a lower ISO Class and more importantly, fire fighters learning and developing new skills as they witness what works best for their departments.

We are available to meet with any Fire Chief to explain our services. We are also available by email and telephone to answer any questions they may have concerning the ISO grading.

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