



[Community Name] Announcing Implementation of New “W” Protection Class Designation

Press Release - “W” Protection Class Designation
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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[LOCATION] - **[FIRE DEPARTMENT NAME]**, in association with the Washington Fire Chief’s Association and Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB), is announcing the implementation of a new “W” Protection Class designation affecting certain properties located between five and seven road miles from a responding fire station. This update, effective March 1, 2026, more accurately reflects the fire suppression capabilities available to rural properties served by **[FIRE DEPARTMENT NAME]**.

Historically, properties beyond five road miles were placed into broad classifications that did not always account for modern fire service operations. Today, fire protection capability is determined by more than distance alone. Staffing levels, training standards, apparatus deployment, water supply systems, and coordinated response models all play a critical role in effective fire suppression.

Under the updated framework, properties may qualify for a “W” designation if they:

- Are located between five and seven road miles from a recognized Class A fire station; and
- Are within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant or are supported by an established mobile water supply system, which includes **[FIRE DEPARTMENT NAME]** water tender credit.

The “W” designation recognizes that while extended travel distances present operational challenges, these properties benefit from organized fire response, trained personnel, and reliable water delivery systems. This change may help homeowners see lower rates if their property qualifies for this new designation.

Property owners with questions about how this may apply to their location are encouraged to contact their insurance agent.

More on Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) can be found on their website: www1.wsrb.com/resources/public-protection.

