

TO RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTY WITHIN THE CHERRY POINT FIRE DISTRICT AND THE HARDEEVILLE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

Jasper County provides fire protection service in the unincorporated portions of the County either directly or by contracting with other entities to provide that service. If you are receiving this notice, you are located in an unincorporated area within either the Cherry Point Fire District or the Hardeeville Rural Fire District. On the back of this page is a map of the districts. In the past, the County has contracted with the City of Hardeeville to provide fire protection in these districts.

Beginning July 1, 2019, Jasper County Fire Rescue will begin to provide fire protection response directly in these districts. For several reasons, Jasper County believes to resume providing direct fire protection response in these districts is in the best interest of its residents and businesses for the long term. Jasper County already provides Emergency Medical Services to the entire County and will continue to do so with no changes. The County currently staffs a Paramedic ambulance at the Cherry Point Fire Station which is owned by the City of Hardeeville. This ambulance will continue to service the Cherry Point Fire District. Additionally, when the County resumes providing fire protection services, we will move a Paramedic ambulance into the Hardeeville Rural Fire District from its existing location at Sgt. Jasper Park.

Please let us assure you that your safety and the fire protection of your residence or business is our top priority. We will be working over the next few months to allow for a seamless transition of service delivery as of July 1, 2019. The County is establishing new Fire Stations in the New River Business Park, Marsh Cove, and on Stiney Road, purchasing additional equipment, and hiring additional staff to enable the County to directly provide quality fire protection and emergency services to you.

The current Jasper County Fire Rescue Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating for fire protection is one number higher than that of the City of Hardeeville. For ISO ratings, the lower the rating number the better. Insurance company's homeowners and business insurance policies may use the ISO ratings for insurance rates, or they may choose not to. The ratings serve as a guide, and other factors, such as fire suppression systems and proximity to fire hydrants may be used to influence the actual policy cost for individual properties. Jasper County continues to invest in emergency services in an ongoing effort toward reducing its (ISO) ratings. As part of this commitment, the County will be hiring a consultant to conduct an ISO audit of our fire protection services and make recommendations for improvement as we add the additional stations, personnel, and equipment.

If you should have any questions, Jasper County Emergency Services staff can assist you. You may call 843-726-7607 or visit <http://www.jaspercountysc.gov/departments/departments-b-h/emergency-services> for further information. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew P. Fulghum

County Administrator