

# Best in Class: Webster's Public Safety Distinctions

Webster is proud to rank among the safest and most well-protected communities in the nation—earning top distinctions for both fire and police services:

- Webster Fire Department ranks among 400 agencies nationwide—and only 65 in Texas—to achieve the prestigious ISO Class 1 rating.
- Webster is one of just 22 Texas municipalities with both Fire and Police best-practices recognition; only 16 statewide hold both honors and an ISO Class 1 rating.
- As a result, among 1,225 incorporated municipalities in Texas, Webster stands in the top 1% for public safety excellence.

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## What is ISO-1?

An ISO-1 classification benefits the entire community, as it directly impacts insurance premiums and reflects a city's fire protection capabilities. A top classification results in reduced rates, as well as enhanced economic development. Residents, businesses, commercial building owners, shopping center landlords, single- and multi-family residential property owners, and all who own or lease a structure in Webster are beneficiaries of the City's Class 1 ranking.

The ISO evaluation process is rigorous. Insurance Services Office, a national organization that assesses municipal fire protection, conducts in-depth analyses of a community's fire suppression system, water supply, and communications network. The fire department is reviewed for staffing, equipment, training, and logistics. The water system is examined for hydrant condition and maintenance, spacing, water volume, and sustainable flow capacity for a duration of two hours. The communications system is evaluated for telephone and internet infrastructure, speed, reliability, fire alarms, dispatch operations, and use of the latest technology.

Because an ISO rating is a trusted indicator of a community's fire service strength, and carries significant implications for insurance rates, business recruitment, and retention—the review is exhaustive. Once initiated by a municipality, the process can take more than a year and includes extensive documentation, reports, and on-site inspections.

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## What is Best Practices Recognition?

In addition to its ISO-1 status, Webster's Fire and Police Departments have both earned "Recognized" status in their respective state best practices programs—the Texas Fire Chiefs Association Best Practices Recognition Program and the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Recognition Program. These programs require agencies to meet or exceed rigorous standards in policies, training, operations, safety, accountability, and community engagement. Recognition is granted only after a thorough review that includes policy audits, compliance verification, and on-site inspections, making it a clear mark of operational excellence.