



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRE DEPARTMENT LAUDED IN ACCREDITATION SURVEY

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 2/2/10) – The Temple Terrace Fire Department is highly regarded in the community, with “extremely professional and prompt” fire and emergency medical personnel, according to the results of a comprehensive community stakeholders’ survey.

Nearly 100 community leaders, including business, government, education, real estate and other professionals, came together Jan. 26 to participate in a survey to identify the fire department’s strengths and weaknesses. The survey will help inform department officials as they begin crafting a five-year strategic plan, said Temple Terrace Fire Chief Keith Chapman. The plan is a component of the department’s international accreditation process.

Survey participants ranked emergency medical services as the fire department’s most-important priority in serving the community, followed closely by fire suppression. Participants used a numerical point system to rank the importance of each service. Technical rescues, fire prevention and hazardous-materials mitigation were among other activities that were ranked.

Participants also provided assessments of the fire department’s strengths, as well as identifying areas of concern and suggested improvements. Most wrote highly of the department, citing the firefighters’ and paramedics’ expertise, professionalism, integrity, friendliness and promptness.

Among the concerns were budget constraints, continued availability of training and technology, and the level of service as the City grows. Participants also recommended additional educational efforts and a greater focus on race and gender diversity when hiring new personnel.

“We had a lot of good feedback,” Chapman said, noting he was pleased with the level of participation.

“We tried to get as diverse a snapshot of the community as possible,” he said. “The whole purpose of that exercise was to get a community-driven plan. This will help us create the kind of fire department the community wants, which is exactly where we want to be.”

The Temple Terrace Fire Department was awarded Accredited Agency status in 2006 by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, a program of the Virginia-based Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. A representative from the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. facilitated the survey meeting.

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