



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

124 Bullard Parkway
Temple Terrace, Florida 33617
813.506-6700
813.506-6701 FAX
www.templeterrace.com

Aug. 24, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Michael Dunn, City of Temple Terrace PIO @ (813) 506-6406

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ACCREDITATION RENEWED

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 8/24/11) – The Temple Terrace Fire Department once again has been recognized as one of the best fire departments in America.

The fire department's *Accredited Agency* status was approved for renewal Tuesday by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), a program of the Center for Public Safety Excellence. The announcement came during the organization's conference in Atlanta.

Fewer than 150 firefighting organizations worldwide have achieved CFAI accreditation, which is based on demanding performance and quality-improvement criteria. The Temple Terrace Fire Department was first accredited in 2006, a designation that puts the department among the top-rated firefighting organizations both nationally and internationally.

A fire department's accreditation must be approved for renewal every five years, said Temple Terrace Fire Chief Keith Chapman. It's not easy to do.

"It's actually harder, I think," Chapman said, because departments must show they have mastered new, updated standards, regulations and other criteria, as well as making progress on the department's strategic plan and fulfilling the recommendations of the accreditation team.

"You really have to keep up with your game in order to be reaccredited," he said. "We've seen departments struggle the second time around, so it's exciting that we got that."

Temple Terrace's accreditation renewal was approved unanimously after a 20-minute presentation and question-and-answer period, Chapman said. The Center for Public Safety Excellence will host a banquet Thursday night in Atlanta to present its awards.

###