



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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May 26, 2011

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Two pages)

TEAM RECOMMENDS ACCREDITATION RENEWAL

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 5/26/11) – The Temple Terrace Fire Department once again has been recognized as one of the top fire departments in America.

A four-member assessment team on Thursday recommended renewal of the department's accreditation status, a designation that places the department among the elite firefighting organizations both nationally and around the world.

The assessment team members:

Jerry A. Nulliner - Team Leader
Fishers Fire Department, Indiana
Division Chief

Michael Despain
Fresno Fire Department, California
Deputy Chief

Robert E. Lee
Newport News Fire Department, Virginia
Battalion Chief

Ronnie L Melser, Jr.
Clay Fire Department, Indiana
Deputy Fire Marshal

The Temple Terrace Fire Department was first awarded Accredited Agency status in 2006 by the Commission of Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), a program of the Virginia-based Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. Temple Terrace was first fire department in Hillsborough County to be internationally accredited.

Accredited agencies must renew their accreditation status every five years, an arduous task that requires a thorough review of the department's strategic plan, standards of response and self-assessment manual. The documents, combined with available exhibits, represent more than 1,000 pages of information about the performance of the department, said Temple Terrace Fire Chief Keith Chapman.

Because there are no national standards to judge fire departments, accreditation is a way of assuring the public that its fire department is performing consistently at a high-quality level. The process demands rigorous self-assessment, continuous improvement and adherence to established standards.

Accreditation team leader Jerry Nulliner on Thursday lauded the Temple Terrace Fire Department for its performance in many areas. The team also made five strategic recommendations and five specific recommendations for the department in its report.

The Temple Terrace Fire Department will go before the CFAI on Aug. 21 in Atlanta for final approval of its accreditation renewal.

“The fire department is extremely happy with the recommendation from the assessment team,” Chapman said.

“I am thankful for the highly skilled professionals I have the opportunity to lead,” he said. “The members of this department have worked extremely hard over the last five years to maintain international accredited status. This work demonstrates their commitment to providing outstanding service to the citizens of Temple Terrace.”

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