



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDED INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL – 9/20/06) – The Temple Terrace Fire Department has been recognized as one of the top fire departments in America.

The fire department was awarded Accredited Agency status this month by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), a program of the Virginia-based Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. The honor was announced during a banquet ceremony Sept. 14, 2006 in Dallas, Texas.

Only 125 agencies worldwide have achieved CFAI accreditation, which is based on demanding performance and quality-improvement criteria. The honor places the Temple Terrace Fire Department in elite standing as a top-rated fire department both nationally and internationally.

“I think it sets us apart from a lot of other fire departments in the United States,” said Temple Terrace Fire Chief Ernie Hiers. “It elevates our standing in the community. So it’s a great honor.”

The Temple Terrace Fire Department is the first agency in Hillsborough County to become CFAI accredited. Other area agencies include Largo Fire Rescue, the Bradenton Fire Department and St. Petersburg Fire Rescue.

The CFAI was formed in 1995 to determine the risk factors related to fire safety needs within communities, to evaluate the performance of fire agencies and to develop methods for continuous improvement. Because there is no national standard on which to judge fire-agency performance, accreditation establishes a well-defined evaluation process for determining service excellence.

For additional information, contact Fire Chief Ernie Hiers at (813) 989-7121.

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