



PRESS RELEASE

December 1, 2017

For Immediate Release

FIRE DISTRICT RECEIVES RECOMMENDATION FROM ACCREDITATION TEAM

ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL Fire District members learned this morning, after a very long, grueling week that the District has been recommended to the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for accreditation. Currently there are only 240 Fire Departments worldwide to achieve Accredited Agency Status.

Accreditation is a comprehensive self-assessment and evaluation that enables an organization to examine service delivery and compare it to the industry standards. It's also a way to establish a method for achieving continuous organizational improvement. The accreditation process is voluntary and the CFAI is dedicated to assisting fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world.

The recommendation was announced today, following a week long visit from a Site Assessment Team representing the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). The Fire District began this journey in 2014 and over the last three years has spent countless staff hours examining past, current, and future service levels and internal performance to compare them to current research and industry best practices.

This is a win win situation for our community as citizens benefit from the accreditation process as well. With the continued improvement model used in seeking accreditation, the agency must maintain an active strategic planning program as well as a comprehensive assessment of the overall community's level of risk. This "risk assessment" helps the community's elected officials make an educated decision on the level of service they desire.

"We are thrilled that our agency has been recommended for accreditation. This recognition underscores the hard work and dedication of our team and will serve as a benchmark for us to maintain in the future." – Interim Fire Chief Nate Spera, MPA

"This is a long time coming, but well worth the effort. I am extremely proud of our dedicated fire district family for staying the course. Through this process we have improved in every facet, finding solutions to challenges, significantly improving our professionalism in the life, health, and safety of the 600 square miles we call St. Lucie County and our home." – Vice Chairman Chris Dzadovsky

"We should all be proud of the hardworking men and women of the St. Lucie County Fire District, whose excellence and commitment to keeping us alive and well have earned the prestigious recommendation for accreditation by the CFAI site assessment team. We would like to thank the site assessment team for its work and look forward to the Accreditation Commission's decision." – Chairman Gregory J. Orevac

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