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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Fire Department reaccredited by Center for Public Safety Excellence**

The Center for Public Safety Excellence this week unanimously voted to reaccredit the Springfield Fire Department for another five years.

The Springfield Fire Department first received accreditation from the agency in 2008 and is now one of only [187 accredited fire and rescue agencies](#) in the world – that's approximately one-half of 1 percent of fire agencies in the U.S.

"While some carried the brunt of the work for the accreditation process – such as Assistant Fire Chief Randy Villines serving as our accreditation manager – every member of the Fire Department contributed to this reaccreditation," says Fire Chief David Hall. "Since our initial accreditation five years ago, we have made significant improvements that were the direct result of the accreditation process. I expect similar results over the next five years."

CPSE accreditation is a comprehensive self-assessment and evaluation model that enables organizations to examine past, current, and future service levels and internal performance and compare them to industry best practices. This process leads to improved service delivery.

CPSE's Accreditation Program, administered by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) allows fire and emergency service agencies to compare their performance to industry best practices in order to:

- Determine community risk and safety needs and develop community-specific Standards of Cover.
- Evaluate the performance of the department.
- Establish a method for achieving continuous organizational improvement.

Local government executives face increasing pressure to "do more with less" and justify their expenditures by demonstrating a direct link to improved or expanded services. Particularly for emergency services, local officials need criteria to assess professional performance and efficiency. The CFAI accreditation process provides a well-defined, internationally recognized benchmark system to measure the quality of fire and emergency services.

Several City of Springfield departments have achieved worldwide or national accreditation by their respective associations. For more information, visit [www.springfieldmo.gov/awards/](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/awards/).

For more information, please contact Fire & Life Safety Educator Cara Erwin at 864-1699.