



## **TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Two pages)**

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED FOR ACCREDITATION RENEWAL**

**(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 4/15/16)** – The Temple Terrace Fire Department once again has been recognized as one of the top fire departments in America.

On May 31, a four-member assessment team 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. This recommendation came after a month of document reviews and a four day on-site visit.

The assessment team members:

Gerard Kay - Team Leader  
Regina, Saskatchewan (Canada)

Gary Aleshire  
University Place, Washington

James Summers  
Yuma, Arizona - Marine Corp. Base

Jeffrey Lutz  
Rancho Santa Margarita, California

The Temple Terrace Fire Department was first awarded Accredited Agency status in 2006, and again in 2011 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. Accreditation is a way of assuring the public that its fire department is operating using best practices and adhering to national standards. The process demands rigorous self-assessment, continuous improvement and adherence to established baselines and benchmarks.

Accreditation team leader Gerald Kay and other members of the team lauded the Temple Terrace Fire Department for its performance in many areas. The team also made a number of strategic specific

recommendations for the department to work on during this next five-year cycle.

The Temple Terrace Fire Department will go before the CFAI in August for final approval of its accreditation renewal.

“The fire department has worked extremely hard to retain this international accreditation status. I am proud to work with professionals who embrace the philosophy of continuous improvement and understand the importance of serving the community with excellence. We are very excited about the favorable recommendation from the assessment team,” said Temple Terrace Fire Chief Keith Chapman.

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