



NEWS RELEASE

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Hillsboro Fire and Rescue – An Accredited Agency

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) has awarded Hillsboro Fire and Rescue accreditation at the CFAI annual conference in Orlando, FL. The Fire Department has been conducting its self assessment review over the past two years. A CFAI Peer Review Team, made up of fire service professionals from other departments of similar size across the country, toured Hillsboro Fire Department in early January, inspected its documentation of policies, practices, programs and deployment and recommended to the commission that the Department be accredited for five years.

“Accreditation means that we meet international standards for performance and management for a fire department of our size,” said Fire Chief Gary Seidel. “It is a lengthy process, but helps us discover our strengths as well as the areas in which we need to improve.” The CFAI operates under the auspices of the Center for Public Safety Excellence. The umbrella agency establishes and promotes recognized professional standards to help fire agencies move beyond tactical deployment to continuous strategic improvement and an all-hazard approach to emergency response. Accreditation provides the community with confidence their fire department is performing at or above international standards.

Fire Chief Gary Seidel, along with several of the Department’s leadership, attended the CFAI annual conference to answer the Commission’s final questions about the accreditation application and documentation. The Commission voted to grant accreditation. Fire Department staff will provide the Commission with annual reports on the areas noted for improvement. At the end of the five years of accreditation, the Fire Department will have to reapply for another five years and undergo the same self assessment process.

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Photo Caption: Hillsboro Fire Chiefs Receive Accreditation Award. Pictured from left to right, Accreditation Peer Review Team Leader Brian Dean, Hillsboro Fire Department Administrative Chief (retired) Dennis Ross, Hillsboro Fire Department Chief Gary Seidel, Hillsboro Fire Department Operations Chief Greg Nelson and CFAI Chairman Ernst Piercy