



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Portage Department of Public Safety – Fire Division Receives Accredited Agency Status

On March 15, 2016, the Portage Department of Public Safety – Fire Division received Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program. The Portage Department of Public Safety Fire Division is one of approximately 200 agencies to achieve Accredited Agency status with the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. (CPSE). Only two other agencies in the State of Michigan are accredited through the CFAI, the Detroit Metro Airport Fire Authority and the City of Grand Rapids Fire Department. The City of Portage is the first public safety agency in the State of Michigan to have both Police and Fire agencies accredited.

CFAI is dedicated to assisting fire and emergency services throughout the world in achieving continuous quality improvement and enhancement of service delivery to their communities. The CFAI process is voluntary and provides an improvement model for agencies to assess their service delivery and performance internally. The agency then works with a team of peers from other agencies to evaluate their completed self-assessment. One immediate positive outcome of completing this process is the Fire Division's ability to respond in a shorter time period to medical-related responses by examining and making changes to call processing methods

"The Fire Division's achievement of Accredited Agency status demonstrates the commitment of the agency to provide the highest quality of service to our community," said Public Safety Director, Richard White. "We have also been able to use the CFAI process as a proactive mechanism to plan for the future of this agency and locate areas where we can improve on the quality of the services we provide."



The City of Portage Department of Public Safety – Fire Division is presented with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International Agency Accreditation Status



John Podgorski, Senior Deputy Fire Chief (left) and Department of Public Safety Director, Richard White (right), present the Commission on Fire Accreditation International Agency Accreditation to City Manager, Larry Shaffer (center).

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