



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Joseph Houck, Fire Chief
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October 7, 2011

The City of Summit Fire Department is Awarded International Accredited Status

The City of Summit Fire Department in Summit New Jersey has 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 Summit Fire Department is one of 144 agencies worldwide to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. (CSPE)

The Summit Fire Department is the second accredited agency in New Jersey, joining the Bloomfield Fire Department who became accredited in 2009. Summit is the first community in New Jersey to have both their fire and police departments accredited.

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International is dedicated to assisting the fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self-assessment and accreditation in order to provide the continuous quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities. The CFAI process is voluntary, and provides an agency with an improvement model to assess their service delivery and performance internally and then works with a team of peers from other agencies to evaluate their completed self-assessment.

Fire Chief Joseph Houck stated that Summit Fire Department's achievement of Accredited Agency status "demonstrates the commitment of the department to provide the highest quality of service to our community". Chief Houck also said, "We have also been able to use the Commission of Fire Accreditation International's process as a proactive mechanism to plan for the future of this department and locate areas where we can improve on the quality of the services we provide."

Summit Fire Department's Deputy Chief, Richard DeGroot stated, "We chose to include all members of the department in completing the self-assessment model. A

comprehensive review of all department programs and procedures was conducted. Firefighters conducted detailed risk assessments of all the major commercial and institutional buildings in the City and a standard of response coverage document was developed that outlines the performance goals of the department for all types of emergency responses.

The Summit Common Council will hold a special meeting on Tuesday October 11, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. at Summit City Hall to recognize the Fire Department for this achievement. This meeting will be broadcast locally by HomeTowne Television on Comcast channel 36 and Verizon channel 30.

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