



CLAY FIRE

18355 Auten Road • South Bend, IN 46637 Telephone: (574) 272-2144
Fax: (574) 272-4043
Internet: www.clayfd.com

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jaren Kilian, Clay Fire, Assistant Fire Chief – (574) 272-2144

Clay Fire Territory Receives Rare Distinction: “Internationally Accredited Agency”

South Bend, IN (August 19, 2019) – The Clay Fire Territory has once again been awarded “Internationally Accredited Agency” status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). In order to achieve this milestone, the Clay Fire Territory was required to meet all criteria established through CFAI’s voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program. This is the fourth time the Clay Fire Territory has received this high honor.

The Clay Fire Territory became the first agency in Indiana to have been awarded “Internationally Accredited Agency” status by CFAI in 2004. Clay Fire remains to be one of the longest consecutively accredited agencies in the world – only 41 other agencies have accomplished this rare milestone. Since 2004, Clay Fire has strived to maintain international accreditation and was among the first 100 agencies of more than 30,000 municipal fire departments in the U.S. to undergo and achieve this distinction. The agency has retained its status of being one of only 250 agencies to be accredited by the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). Internationally accredited agencies must submit compliance reports annually, as well as update and renew their status every five years.

According to Fire Chief Timm Schabbel, “The Clay Fire Territory’s achievement of continued accredited agency status demonstrates the commitment of the organization to provide the highest quality of service to our community.” Chief Schabbel also said, “We have 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.”

CFAI 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 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. The agency then works with a team of peers from other emergency organizations to evaluate their completed self-assessment.

A n A c c r e d i t e d F i r e D e p a r t m e n t