



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Website: [beverlyhills.org/firedepartment](http://beverlyhills.org/firedepartment)

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## **Beverly Hills Fire Department Awarded International Accredited Status**

The Beverly Hills Fire Department (*BHFD*) 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. BHFD is one of only 295 agencies in the country to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. (*CPSE*).

Below are highlights pertaining to the CFAI accreditation program:

- There are 295 internationally-accredited agencies, among nine countries, worldwide;
- There are only 113 agencies that carry the distinction of being a Class-1 Fire Department and internationally-accredited, worldwide;
- There are only 278 accredited agencies (*out of 27,171 registered fire departments, per the National Fire Department Registry*) or 0.01% nationwide;
- Only 12% of the U.S. population is protected by accredited agencies;
- There are only 23 accredited agencies in the entire State of California;
- The City of Beverly Hills Fire Department became the fourth accredited agency (*out of 88 incorporated cities*) which equates to 0.05% in Los Angeles County.

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 outside agencies to evaluate their completed self-assessment.

To complete the accreditation process, the BHFD Accreditation Team logged thousands of hours in preparing all requisite documents, to include addressing assessment-related inquiries and peer team review action items. The team is comprised of both safety and civilian personnel.

“With a combination of dynamic community involvement and close collaboration from City stakeholders, we have been able to use the Commission on Fire Accreditation International’s 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 provided,” said BHFD Fire Chief Greg Barton.

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