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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **South Metro Fire Rescue Announces the Recent Graduation of its Newest Class of Firefighters**

### ***20 New Firefighters Graduated on Dec. 2, 2016 and Deploy to Fire Stations across SMFR's District Starting in Early Dec.***

**Centennial, Colo.— (Dec. 05, 2016)**—South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) announced today that the latest class of firefighters from SMFR Training Academy have graduated. A ceremony recognizing the 20 graduates was held at the Parker Arts, Cultural and Events (PACE) Center on Friday, Dec. 2, 2016 in recognition of all their efforts throughout the 16-week academy.

“We are so proud of all of our recent graduates from our 2016 class of recruits,” said Bob Baker, Fire Chief of SMFR. “These new firefighters have come out of this intensive training academy with a tremendous set of skills to commit their careers to the people and communities we serve throughout our District. They are all now part of the SMFR family and it is our hope that they able to enjoy a long and rewarding career here with us.”

The academy began in August 2016 and all of the 20 recruits were required to do various levels of training – including classroom instruction for all basic skills, physical fitness training, as well as drill ground firefighting skills training in controlled environments. The training provides these newest SMFR firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.

At the SMFR Training Academy, the recruits learn from certified fire instructors who are also experienced firefighters within SMFR. The new graduates will assume their assignments in early December at fire stations across SMFR's District. The new firefighter's names are as follows:

- Aaron Allen
- Andrew Pavone
- Robert Mulrone
- Christopher Riggs
- Alexander (Cole) Soli
- Curtis Moxley
- Derek Jordan
- Erik Johansson
- Ian Watters
- Jared Lombardi
- Justin Laborde
- Kevin Seitz
- Korey Springer
- Kyle Hebert
- Nicholas Kuhn
- Patrick Hendrix
- Paul Costello
- Robert Sorensen
- Steven Tingey
- Todd Plumer

“Being a firefighter is much more than a job or even a profession – it's truly a ‘calling’ for individuals to serve,” added Chief Baker. “This is evident in that many of our new recruits already have a history of selfless service, including coming from an armed forces background; special education teaching; high school coaching; and many more who continue to volunteer in our community caring for our citizens each and every day. We are so happy to have them part of our organization as they will bring tremendous value to the communities that we serve.”



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### **About South Metro Fire Rescue**

South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) is committed to helping the community it serves, including 179 square miles in Douglas and Arapahoe counties. With 17 stations in the south metro area, SMFR provides emergency and prevention services to approximately 203,500 residents and thousands more who come into our communities to work. Specifically, SMFR serves the cities of Castle Pines, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Foxfield, Greenwood Village, Lone Tree, and Parker, as well as Castle Pines Village, Louviers, Centennial Airport, the Denver Tech Center, Inverness, and the Meridian Office Park as well as unincorporated portions of Arapahoe and Douglas counties. For more information, please visit <http://www.southmetro.org>.