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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **South Metro Fire Rescue Maintains Accredited Status through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI)**

**Centennial, Colo. — (August 19, 2026)** South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) has again received Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI's voluntary self-assessment accreditation program. On Tuesday, August 18, 2026, representatives from SMFR appeared in front of the CFAI Commission for the final step in the accreditation process in Chicago, IL. The Commission voted unanimously (12-0) to approve accredited status for SMFR over the next five years.

South Metro is one of more than 300 agencies in the U.S., and amongst 23 in Colorado, to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. (CPSE). CFAI is dedicated to assisting fire and emergency service agencies worldwide in achieving excellence through self-assessment and accreditation, providing continuous quality improvement and enhancing 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.

South Metro Fire Chief John Curtis stated: "South Metro Fire Rescue is proud to continue a tradition of disciplined self-examination and professional excellence we've maintained since 2003." Chief Curtis also said, "Accreditation is far more than a designation for us. It's one of the most valuable measures of our performance and a driving force behind how we evolve as a fire department. We deeply appreciate the work of our peer assessors and the opportunities for growth they identified. We have already begun taking deliberate and meaningful action in these areas."

South Metro responded to a total of 51,407 in-district incidents in 2025, including 657 fire calls and 34,536 emergency medical service (EMS) calls, resulting in 24,685 patient transports.

During their site visit earlier in 2026, the Peer Assessment Team highlighted the strength of SMFR's service, people, and culture. Assessors engaged with members across the organization and observed how SMFR operates, trains, and collaborates with partnering agencies to support effective service delivery. Their feedback reflected the professionalism and dedication shown throughout SMFR and reinforced the positive impact of our teams and the way we work together to serve our communities.

The Peer Assessment Team also recommended areas for improvement, many of which are already in progress. SMFR is incorporating these improvements into daily operations with a focus on enhancing firefighter safety through a strengthened risk management approach, elevating the services that address community risk, and continuing to meet service levels with adaptability and innovation.

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South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) is committed to helping the community it serves, including 287.5 square miles in Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties. With 30 stations in the south metro area, South Metro provides emergency and prevention services to nearly 580,000 residents and thousands more who come into our communities to work and visit. SMFR proudly serves the cities of Bow Mar, Castle Pines, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Foxfield, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Lone Tree, and Parker, along with portions of Aurora and Lakewood. Additionally, SMFR provides fire and emergency services to unincorporated communities such as Castle Pines Village, Highlands Ranch, The Pinery, Four Square Mile, and Louviers, as well as key transportation and business hubs in 12 municipalities, including Centennial Airport, the Denver Tech Center, Inverness, Meridian Office Park, and unincorporated areas of Arapahoe, Douglas, and Jefferson counties. For more information, please visit <http://www.southmetro.org>.