



City of St. Charles  
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**For Immediate Release**

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### **The St. Charles Fire Department Awarded International Accreditation**

**ST. CHARLES, Ill.** (Aug. 20, 2018) – The St. Charles Fire Department has retained Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for once again meeting the criteria established through the CFAI’s voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program. The St. Charles Fire Department is one of only 250 agencies to achieve Internationally Accredited Agency status with the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. The Department was first accredited in 2013.

CFAI is dedicated to assisting fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world achieve excellence through self-assessment and accreditation to continually improve and enhance services to their communities. The CFAI process is voluntary, and provides an agency with an improvement model to assess its service delivery and performance internally. The agency then works with a team of peers from other agencies to evaluate its completed self-assessment.

“Our achievement of Accredited Agency status demonstrates that our department is not only comprised of dedicated professionals, but we are also truly a leader in our industry,” said Fire Chief Joseph Schelstreet. “We have long realized here that it is not enough to just be a high-performance organization; it is necessary to document that performance, construct a plan for continuous improvement and be transparent with our results.”

City Administrator Mark Koenen said, “Retaining International Accreditation is a significant accomplishment. Chief Schelstreet, his leadership team and all the members of the St. Charles Fire Department should be commended for continually looking to improve their vital service to the St. Charles community.”

#### ***About the City of St. Charles***

City of St. Charles Mission: *Heritage. Community. Service. Opportunity.* Friendly neighborhoods, unique architecture, beautiful parks, cultural amenities and innovative schools have earned St. Charles its reputation as the Pride of the Fox. Located in both DuPage and Kane counties, the City of St. Charles is 35 miles west of downtown Chicago, and has a population of approximately 33,000. Over 2,100 businesses, consisting of a balanced mix of retailers, restaurants and manufacturing facilities, employ more than 18,000 people. The City of St. Charles was named the #1 City for Families by *Family Circle*® magazine in 2011; one of the “150 Great Places in Illinois,” by the AIA Illinois; and one of the “Top 10 Towns To Live In” by *West Suburban Living* magazine. [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov)

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