



**South Metro Fire Rescue Contact:**

Connor Christian

720.656.5242

720.608.9366

[Connor.Christian@southmetro.org](mailto:Connor.Christian@southmetro.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **South Metro Fire Rescue is Awarded International Reaccreditation Status**

**Centennial, Colo. — (July 1, 2021) —** South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) has been awarded Accredited status by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established through the CFAI’s voluntary self-assessment and accreditation program. South Metro is one of nearly 250 agencies in the U.S. -- and only 20 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 the fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through self-assessment 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 accreditation model to assess their service delivery and performance, and then provides a team of peers from other agencies to evaluate the agency’s completed self-assessment.

South Metro Fire Chief Bob Baker stated that the agency’s achievement of Accredited Agency status “demonstrates the commitment of South Metro to provide the highest quality of service to our community.” Chief Baker also said, “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 to locate areas where we can continue to improve upon, including providing additional data sets based on the identified needs from the team to verify all response data.”

South Metro responded to a total of 41,225 emergencies in 2020 including: 1,032 fire calls (2 percent); 26,620 emergency medical service (EMS) calls (65 percent); and 13,573 miscellaneous calls (33 percent).

Servicing these calls in 2020 resulted in a total of 80,921-unit movements, including 17,785 EMS transports.

Areas where the accreditation peer team identified best practices within the organization included Communications, Community Risk Reduction and Wellness. The Communications and Community Risk Reduction groups strive to uphold SMFR's strong reputation within the community – including connecting with community members during incidents and providing diligent follow up from the Community Risk Reduction Team on education opportunities. South Metro is also fully engaged in the health and wellness of SMFR's staff and line members, and recently embarked on a whole-health initiative that incorporates staff subject-matter-experts from a variety of disciplines including behavioral health, cognitive health, rehabilitation, sports medicine, and fitness. The program is expected to improve the overall wellness of SMFR's workforce, expedited return-to-work initiatives, and has reduced the financial impact of firefighter injuries.

Part of the accreditation process also provides specific recommendations in various areas for the fire district to improve upon. Over the next five years, South Metro will work to ensure that all recommendations that were provided by the assessment team are woven into SMFR's overall strategic initiatives so that the department can continue to strive for excellence within the communities it serves.

“I want to thank the many individuals at SMFR who are involved in this rigorous accreditation process of documenting, appraising, and outlining everything that South Metro does as a fire district every five years,” said South Metro Board Chair, Jim Albee. “Twelve percent of the U.S. population is protected by an accredited agency and I am proud to say that South Metro is one of these full-service fire districts -- providing emergency and prevention services to hundreds of thousands of people each day.”

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

South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) is committed to helping the community it serves, including nearly 300 square miles in Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties. With 30 stations in the south metro area, South Metro provides emergency and prevention services to approximately 540,000 residents and thousands more who come into our communities to work. Specifically, South Metro Fire Rescue serves the cities of Bow Mar, Castle Pines, Centennial, Cherry Hills Village, Columbine Valley, Foxfield, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Lone Tree, Parker, Castle Pines Village Highlands Ranch and Louviers. South Metro also responds to incidents in its 12 municipalities including Centennial Airport, the Denver Tech Center, Inverness, Meridian Office Park as well as unincorporated portions of Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties. For more information, please visit <http://www.southmetro.org>.