

Fire Service Accreditation

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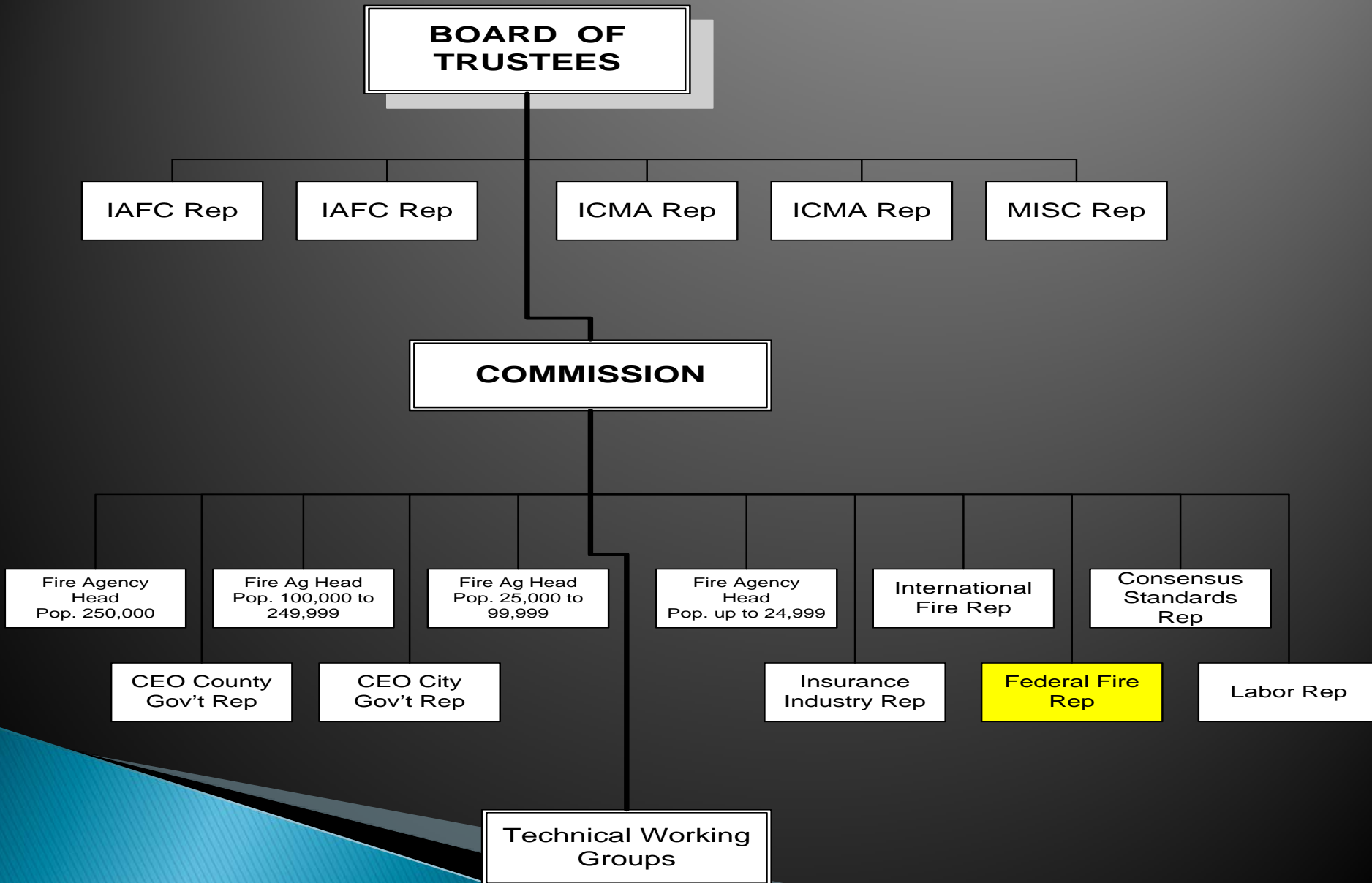
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What is Accreditation?

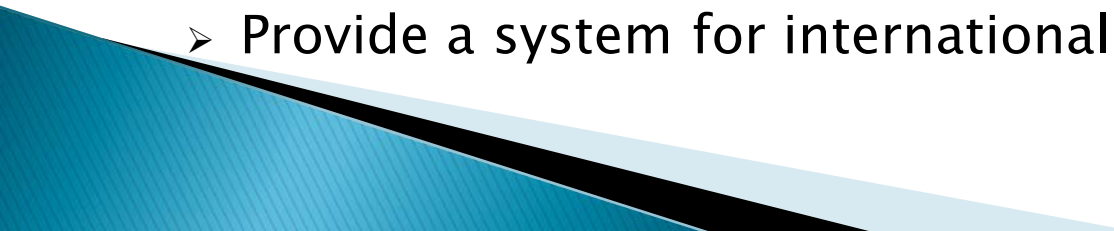
- Comprehensive fire and emergency service evaluation
 - Considered the industry standard for fire service evaluation
 - Method of measuring a fire department's performance
- Overseen by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI)
 - Founded in 1996
 - Governed by a five-member board
 - 11 member Commission
 - Includes a Federal Fire Representative
 - Also includes 4 fire chiefs, labor representative and members of consensus standard organizations

Commission on Fire Accreditation International, Inc.

ORGANIZATION CHART



Benefits of Conducting a Self Assessment Process

- Provides a strategic evaluation of the agency and services
 - Provides a mechanism for developing concurrent documents such as strategic plans, risk assessments, written standards of cover, desk top manual
 - Promotes excellence within the agency
 - Encourages quality improvement continuously
 - Identifies areas of strengths and weaknesses
 - Provides a means for agency growth
 - Provide a system for international recognition
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Other Accreditation Examples

- JCAHO (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations)
 - CALEA (Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies)
 - APCO (Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials)
 - University Accreditation
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What is the Process for Accreditation?

Four main stages:

1. Registered

- Access to CFAI network
- Receives CFAI newsletter
- Discounts on CFAI publications

2. Applicant

- Receive Fire & Emergency Service Self Assessment Manual and supporting documents
- 18 mos to complete the self assessment


3. Accreditation Candidate

- After agency has completed the self assessment
- CFAI will assign the peer assessment team
- Agency conducts Peer site visit

4. Accredited

- After the Commission grants accreditation
- On the 5th anniversary, Agency submits the application for re-accreditation

What does Accreditation do for me?

- Self Improvement Model
 - Template for Effective Management
 - Objective Assessment
 - Industry Experts for Free*
 - Credibility Test
 - Research Project
 - Learning Tool
 - Networking Opportunity
 - Marketing Strategy
 - Method for leading a compliant department
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Tie-In to Public Law

.... requires Federal agencies to utilize standards adopted or recognized by the Federal Government and to coordinate the use by Federal agencies of private sector standards, emphasizing where possible **the use of standards developed by private, consensus organizations.**

Public Law 104-113, *National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995*, Section 12

Tie in to DoDI 6055.06

- ▶ 5.5.12. Encourage all DoD Component fire departments to achieve and maintain the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) accreditation
- ▶ 6.15.2. Implement procedures to compile DoD Component F&ES Program status in an annual management review to the DUSD(I&E) that addresses, at a minimum, the...categories in the CFAI F&ES Self-Assessment Manual
- ▶ 6.15.4. Implement procedures to validate F&ES self-evaluation and improvement through achieving CFAI certification (preferred) or equivalent program that at a minimum contains an evaluation performed by external F&ES personnel and addresses the categories in (CFAI)

What are the real reasons?

- ▶ Organizational Improvement
 - Risk Assessment
 - Response Times
 - Service Delivery
 - ▶ Dealing with Change
 - Budget
 - Regionalization
 - Downsizing or Growth
 - ▶ Recognition
 - Spotlight on your Organization
 - Is Press ever Bad?
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Pillars in the Accreditation Process



Questions?

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