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MEDIA RELEASE

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Clay Fire Territory is again Awarded International Accredited Agency Status

South Bend, IN, (August 26, 2014) – The Clay Fire Territory has achieved “Internationally Accredited Agency” status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for a third consecutive time. In order to receive accreditation, Clay Fire was required to meet rigorous standards and all criteria established through CFAI’s self-assessment and accreditation program. The CFAI process provides agencies with an improvement model to assess their service delivery and performance internally. The agency then works with a team of peers from other emergency organizations to evaluate their completed self-assessment.

In 2004, the Clay Fire Territory was the first agency in Indiana to achieve “Internationally Accredited Agency” status by CFAI. Clay Fire was one of the first 100 agencies to have been accredited, and remains to be one of 200 agencies to be accredited by the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). Internationally accredited agencies must demonstrate a commitment to continual improvement, including submitting annual compliance reports and continually reviewing and updating their deployment and response systems.

According to Fire Chief Timm Schabbel, “The Clay Fire Territory’s achievement of continued accredited agency status demonstrates the commitment of the organization to provide the highest quality of service to our community.” Chief Schabbel also said, “We have also been able to use the CFAI process as a proactive mechanism to plan for the future of this agency and locate areas where we can improve on the quality of the services we provide to our community.”

CFAI is dedicated to assisting fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through accreditation in order to provide continuous quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities. Clay Fire remains one of only three fire departments in Indiana that have achieved Accredited Status. The Fishers and Carmel Fire Departments have also achieved this prestigious designation.

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