



CLAYTON COUNTY FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

LANDRY MERKISON

FIRE CHIEF / DIRECTOR,
EMERGENCY SERVICES

Phone: (770) 473-7833

Fax: (770) 473-3837

www.ccfes.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Battalion Chief Laura Richardson

Date: 8/1/2017

678-776-4506

“CCFES IS RANKED AMONG THE TOP IN THE NATION, AGAIN”

Clayton County, GA. - On July. 28, 2017 Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services was awarded Accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Fire Chief/EMA Director Landry Merkison and his Command Staff travelled to Charlotte, North Carolina and received the Accredited Agency Award. There are an estimated 27,198 Fire Departments in the United States and of those, only 238 are accredited, accounting for less than 2% of all Fire Departments in the country.

This is the second major organization to praise the department's efforts. On Sept. 26, 2016 Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services received the Insurance Services Office (ISO) top rating of "Class 1." ISO ratings are issued on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being the best level of protection and 10 being no formal protection. Less than 2% of Fire Departments in the country hold the rating of 1.

Accreditation is a comprehensive self-assessment and quality improvement model that enables organizations to examine past, current and future service levels and internal performance and compare them to current research and industry best practices. This process leads to a more efficient and effective emergency service organization. The commission allows the fire and emergency service agency to compare their performance to:

- Determine community risk and safety needs and develop community specific Standards to Cover.
- Evaluate the performance of the department.
- Establish a method for achieving continuous organizational improvement.

The Commission on Fire Accreditation evaluates the fire department in the following categories: Assessment and Planning, Essential Resources, External Systems Relations, Financial Resources, Goals and Objectives, Governance and Administration, Human Resources, Physical Resources, Programs and Training and Competency. Each category includes a measure or index on which a judgment or division can be based, as well as indicators that define the desired level of ability to perform a particular task.

The accreditation process results in the development of planning documents, including short-term action and long term strategic plans, important tools in the budgeting process and a basis for justifying departmental programs and services. Accreditation has the potential to dramatically improve a department, its services and its vision for the future.

####

7810 Hwy 85
Riverdale, GA 30274