

For Immediate Release  
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## **Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety Training and Education Bureau Receives International Reaccreditation**

Alaska's fire fighting professionals will continue to enjoy international recognition for their certifications from the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety, Training and Education Bureau following approval by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).

The Training and Education Bureau's reaccreditation was unanimously approved at the IFSAC Annual Meeting on April 26, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Training and Education Bureau's certification process must be re-evaluated every five years in order to keep international accreditation from IFSAC.

The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety, Training and Education Bureau received reaccreditation for the certification levels of Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, Fire Fighter I and II, and Fire Instructor I and II.

A team comprised of IFSAC representatives from accredited agencies from Colorado Division of Fire Safety, Kentucky Fire Commission, and the Newfoundland Office of the Fire Commissioner visited Alaska and reviewed certification procedures, written tests, and manipulative skills testing.

IFSAC currently provides accreditation to entities that certify the competency of and issue certificates to individuals who pass examinations based on the National Fire Protection Association fire service professional qualifications and other standards approved by IFSAC members. There are 61 Certificate Assembly member entities throughout the world having 589 accredited levels. There are 43 members of the IFSAC Degree Assembly that offer fire science or related academic programs at colleges and universities with 17 accredited programs.

"The accreditation status provides Alaska's fire fighters with certification portability. Being internationally accredited ensures the first responder that the certification they receive in Alaska will be recognized in other states and countries. At the same time the review process ensures the Training and Education Bureau is operating a fair, credible, and valid training and certification program," Director David Tyler of the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety said.

Another significant benefit of the accreditation and certification process is the assurance of consistent training and testing of firefighters and emergency responders who protect the citizens of Alaska.

Theresa Staples, Colorado Division of Fire Safety Certification Director, served as leader of the IFSAC site team evaluators who reviewed the Alaska Training and Education Bureau programs.

"It is obvious that a great deal of forethought and hard work went into this program and the Alaska Training and Education Bureau staff should be commended on the work they have completed," Staples said.

For more about Firefighter certification please visit the Division of Fire and Life Safety's website at [www.akburny.com](http://www.akburny.com).