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For Immediate Release:

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SC Fire Academy Earns Additional Accreditation

The South Carolina Fire Academy recently achieved accreditation through Pro Board, which provides further acknowledgement of the quality instruction and leadership being provided to the fire service.

Entities achieving accreditation through the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications are recognized as having met the rigors of review by an independent organization. This third-party independent review assures candidates and governance bodies that the SC Fire Academy meets the national standards. The accreditation also ensures uniformity of qualifications, which allows students trained at the SC Fire Academy more mobility to or from Pro Board states.

The Pro Board accreditation was effective on January 15, 2015. The SC Fire Academy has been accredited through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) since 1993. The IFSAC accreditation also guarantees that training and certification testing conducted at the SC Fire Academy have met national standards, and the services students receive meet the highest caliber and represent current training requirements.

“The addition of Pro Board accreditation to the SC Fire Academy provides additional proof of the Academy’s ability to meet and maintain specific criteria intended to ensure the high quality and uniform standards in the certification process for the state’s firefighters,” said State Fire Marshal Bert Polk, who also serves as LLR’s Deputy Director for the Division of Fire and Life Safety. “This is a definite win for the SC Fire Academy and for its students.”

It also is a win, Polk added, for the State of South Carolina because when a firefighter who is certified in another state, through IFASC or Pro Board, moves to South Carolina, the Fire Academy can grant them reciprocity for the training they received.

This is also a great benefit for veterans. The Department of Defense Fire Certification Office issues Pro Board certification in most cases to their active duty firefighters. When a veteran leaves the active military, their training will be recognized by South Carolina and can ease the transition to a local fire department, as a career or volunteer firefighter.

“The SC Fire Academy is at the forefront of providing top-notch training to our state’s fire service and to others across the nation who have heard about the great things we are doing,” LLR Director Richele Taylor said. “I am proud of the work of our Academy and the great work of our state’s fire service.”