



Arvada Fire Protection District is one of 266 accredited fire and emergency services agencies in the world.

Accreditation is defined by the Center for Public Safety Excellence ([CPSE](#)) as: An all-hazard, quality improvement model based on risk analysis and self-assessment that promotes the establishment of community-adopted performance targets for fire and emergency service agencies. It is a comprehensive self-assessment and evaluation model consisting of key documents (community risk assessment: standards of cover, strategic plan, and self-assessment manual), that enable fire and emergency service organizations to examine past, current, and future service levels to compare their performance to industry best practices and strive for continuous improvement.

Accredited agencies are often described as being community focused, data driven, outcome focused, strategic minded, well organized, properly equipped, and properly staffed.

Agencies become accredited after a peer review of key accreditation documents, completion of an onsite assessment by a qualified peer team, and participation in a public hearing before the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).

Accreditation is valid for five years with a completion of annual, documented updates between renewal periods.

During an in-depth self-assessment, led by the agency's accreditation team, ten main categories are reviewed to ensure an agency meets fire and emergency service operations. These categories include:

1. Governance and Administration
2. Assessment and Planning
3. Goals and Objectives
4. Financial Resources
5. Programs (Community Risk Reduction, Public Education, Fire Investigations, Domestic Preparedness, Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, Technical Rescue, Hazardous Material Response, and Wildland Firefighting)
6. Physical Resources
7. Human Resources
8. Training and Competency
9. Essential Resources
10. External Systems Relationship

To learn more about the Center for Public Safety Excellence, the accreditation process, and see a list of accredited agencies, visit <https://cpse.org/>