

Terminology “Cheat Sheet”

Accreditation: CFAI accreditation is a process of agency self-assessment. The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) will provide an agency the accreditation model, various accreditation publications and trainings, and access to experienced peer assessors. Working towards, achieving, and maintaining accreditation:

- Provides greater community alignment.
- Encourages quality improvement.
- Facilitates input from and builds positive relationships with labor.
- Identifies areas of strengths and weaknesses.
- Allows for the establishment of a plan for improvement.
- Provides data supported decision-making.
- Communicates management and leadership philosophies.
- Ensures your agency has a defined mission and related objectives.
- Encourages the development of organizational procedural documents.

Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE): The Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) corporation. CPSE helps high-performing fire departments and emergency services professionals in their efforts to continuously improve through:

1. Fire department accreditation, a process in which departments undergo a thorough self-assessment focused on identifying strengths and areas for improvement.
2. Credentialing fire and emergency services professionals, instilling the principles of life-long learning and self-accountability and helping them grow and plan for a successful career.
3. Education programs offering individuals and departments the information they need to expand their knowledge and capabilities, and stay on the forefront of the profession.

CPSE Technical Advisor Program (CPSE TAP): CPSE established the Technical Advisor Program (TAP). Led by experienced accreditation peer assessors, TAP can provide your agency expert guidance and coaching as you develop the required accreditation documents.

Community Risk Assessment (CRA): The identification of potential and likely risks within a particular community, and the process of prioritizing the risks.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR): The identification and prioritization of risks followed by the coordinated application of resources to minimize the probability or occurrence and/or the impact of unfortunate events.

Critical Tasking: The application of tasks assigned to human and physical resources that are minimally required to effectively mitigate pain, suffering, loss of life and/or property.

Self-Assessment: Self-assessment is an excellent way of coping with the rise of performance-based budgeting. This type of budgeting requires measuring, benchmarking, and analysis, all of which are in the CFAI model. Government accountability has also been an emerging trend for the last few decades. Self-assessment provides a reliable response to increased oversight by managers and elected officials and potential criticism from the community.

Social Vulnerability: the resilience of communities (the ability to survive and thrive) when confronted by external stresses on human health, stresses such as natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks.

Standards of Cover (SOC): Those written policies and procedures that establish the distribution and concentration of fixed and mobile resources of an organization.

Three-Axis Risk Categorization: utilizes the elements of hazardous event probability, consequence, and the impact of your agency relative to a risk classification. The total incident impact is determined by considering varying conditions and features within response area, the varying hazards unique to the risk, the essential factors created by a risk event, and the resources required to effectively mitigate an incident risk. The greater the total surface area of the triangle, the greater the Risk Category score.