October 19, 2011

To: STEAC
From: Ron Coleman, Chairman
Subject: Status Report on Reciprocity with Center for Public Safety Excellence on Fire Chief Designation

The Statewide Training Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) previously took action to adopt a policy of reciprocity between the State of California and the Center for Public Safety Excellence with respect to recognizing candidates for Chief Fire Officer Designation. Communications have occurred between the two agencies that have resulted in two candidates being considered as a pilot test of the potential of this process.

The two candidates were Randy Bruegman, Fire Chief, City of Anaheim, who had been previously designated by CPSE. He was due for renewal at the national level and applied for consideration in California. The second candidate was Mike Smith, San Manuel Fire Department. He had applied for consideration under the California system.

Chief Bruegman participated in an oral interview process with the PACE IV Committee. He was granted designation after a review of his paperwork. Essentially, Chief Bruegman had already completed the California forms but the interview centered on his expansive background that was also contained in his national form.

Chief Smith completed the California form and participated in an oral interview in California. His score results and documentation were forwarded to CPSE without having to be redone to conform to California’s documentation process. We have received verbal notice that the documentation has been reviewed and granted designation. The actual date of designation will depend upon the next CPSE Board Meeting.

In effect, we have now had two fire officers who have met the criterion for both a state and national designation and have exchanged documentation without mishap. This opens the door for every person that wishes to receive recognition at the state and national level to have a similar opportunity.

Based upon the review of the two documentation systems, it is recommended that we engage in an editing process to modify the California form to be virtually identical with the national form. The review process of our oral interview will be sustained. Those individuals completing the California system will be able to forward their PACE IV results directly to CPSE if this occurs. A sub-committee consisting of
Ron Coleman, Ron Myers, and Ken Wagner will be reviewing these two forms to edit them into a consistent pattern within the next 90 days.

The process has now been established whereby Chief Officers have the opportunity to pursue designation at both the state and national levels with a minimum amount of redundancy.

Summary

Our experiment in reviewing our process clearly illustrates that our processes are mutually reinforcing. This is a step in the direction of assuring that the top rung on the ladder of success within a fire department has established a set of standards that have credibility and consistency.