



**Office of Mayor  
Lawrence J. Morrissey  
LEADING BOLDLY.**

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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August 16, 2012

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### **Local Departmental Chiefs Complete International Professional Designation as Chief EMS Officers**

*Rockford, IL*—The Commission on Professional Credentialing recently announced the launch of a new credentialing for EMS leaders. Fire Chief Derek Bergsten and Division Chief Matt Knott of the Rockford Fire Department have both successfully completed the process that awards them the professional designation of “Chief EMS Officer” (CEMSO). The Commission on Professional Credentialing met on July 3, 2012 to officially confer the designation upon these two Rockford Chiefs ; they are among only 89 individuals to receive this prestigious designation.

The Chief EMS Officer Designation program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated excellence and outstanding achievement throughout their career. CEMSO candidates are evaluated in seven measured components including: Experience, Education, Professional Development, Professional Contributions, Association Membership, Community Involvement, and Technical Competencies. Those candidates exhibiting extensive experience and/or educational backgrounds are eligible for exemption from certain components. The application process not only validates an individual’s prior experience, but it also requires submission of a future professional development plan.

CEMSO candidate portfolios are evaluated by a team of peer reviewers appointed by the Commission on Professional Credentialing, which is the conferring body for the designation.

The designation is valid for three years. Maintaining the designation requires currency in four areas: Professional Development, Professional Contributions, Active Association Membership and Community Involvement.



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### **Rockford Fire Chiefs Complete International Professional Designation Process**

*Rockford, IL* – Fire Chief Derek Bergsten and Division Chief Matt Knott of the Rockford Fire Department have successfully completed the process that awards them the professional designation of “Chief Fire Officer” (CFO). The Commission on Professional Credentialing met on July 3, 2012, to officially confer the re-designation upon them counting them among only 880 CFOs worldwide.

The Chief Fire Officer Designation program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate their excellence in seven measured components including: Experience, Education, Professional Development, Professional Contributions, Association Membership, Community Involvement and Technical Competencies. Chief Bergsten received his original designation on January 10th, 2012, and Division Chief Knott on November 16, 2010. To maintain the designation individuals need to show they have continued to develop as a CFO in four areas: Professional Development, Professional Contributions, Active Association Membership and Community Involvement.

A Board of Review consisting of members of the fire and emergency services profession, academia and municipal agencies review each application and recommends successful candidates for designation to the Commission.

Chief Bergsten and Division Chief Knott have been members of the Rockford Fire Department for 18 and 15 years respectively and both currently reside in Rockford, Illinois.