



# BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

357 FORDING ISLAND ROAD  
OKATIE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29909



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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Battalion Chief celebrates 25 years of service and earns international professional designation**

**Bluffton, SC** (October 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m. EDT) – Bluffton Township Fire District’s Battalion Chief, Rhett Livingston, has achieved an international designation capping off a 25-year career working in the fire services profession.

Livingston successfully completed the process that awards the professional designation of “Chief Fire Officer” (CFO) by the Commission on Professional Credentialing® (CPC®). The CPCs development model recognizes professional accomplishments and technical competence of fire and emergency service officers. By earning the CFO designation, Livingston joins an elite cadre of just over 1,850 CFOs worldwide.

The CFO designation is a voluntary assessment program intended to recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence in seven professional components including experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement, and technical competence. In addition, all applicants are required to identify a continuing professional development plan.

The CFO designation program uses a comprehensive peer review model to evaluate candidates seeking the credential. The Commission on Professional Credentialing® awards the designation only after an individual successfully meets all the organization’s stringent criteria. Achieving this designation signifies Livingston’s career commitment to the fire and emergency services and is only awarded to those chief officers serving at or above the level of battalion chief.

Livingston is responsible for the Fire District’s accreditation program and was instrumental in guiding the district to international accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International in 2020. Chief Livingston began his career with Bluffton Township Fire District in October 1998. He has worked his way through the ranks beginning as a line firefighter.

The Commission on Professional Credentialing, an entity of the Center for Public Safety Excellence®, Inc., (CPSE®) administers the Designation Program. To learn more about CPC, visit [www.cpse.org/credentialing](http://www.cpse.org/credentialing).

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*The Bluffton Township Fire District, established in 1978, has 175 employees. One hundred forty-three firefighters work from 9 stations on 3 shifts. Led by Chief Paul Boulware, the department serves a 246 square-mile area in southern Beaufort County, SC and responds to an average of roughly 9,000 calls for service each year. For more information about the organization, please visit [BlufftonFD.com](http://BlufftonFD.com).*