



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

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## HFD's Lt. Erin Stehle achieves national designation

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Erin Stehle, a 12-year veteran of the Harrisonburg Fire Department and HFD's Community Risk Reduction lieutenant, has earned the prestigious designation of *Fire Officer (FO)* conferred by the Commission on Professional Credentialing, a division of the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Stehle received her designation at the Center for Public Safety Excellence Conference being held this week in Orlando, Fla. The Commission on Professional Credentialing awards the FO designation after an individual successfully meets all the organization's stringent criteria. The process includes an assessment of the applicant's education, experience, professional development, technical competencies, contributions to the profession, and community involvement. Using a comprehensive peer review model, candidates are evaluated to ensure they possess the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities required for the fire and rescue emergency services profession.

For Stehle, who is known widely in Harrisonburg for her work with people of all ages on community risk reduction, the designation was much deserved.



(Above) HFD Lt. Erin Stehle

"Lt. Stehle is the complete embodiment of professionalism, compassion, and goal achievement," Fire Chief Matthew Tobia said. "Erin represents everything that our organization strives to exemplify on a daily basis. She is an amazing leader and is making a tremendous impact on ensuring the safety of our community through innovative prevention efforts."

Stehle oversees the Life Safety Education and Child Passenger Vehicle Safety programs within HFD's Community Risk Reduction division, responsible for fire prevention education for all school-aged children and others at-risk from fire. In 2018, she established Camp L.I.T. (Leadership, Integrity, Trailblazer), an all-girls camp for young participants to explore careers in the fire service, and in 2019, created the department's inaugural community fire academy designed to engage civilians in learning more about the department and its mission.

Stehle leads HFD's Pizza Night program, an award-winning community risk reduction strategy to increase the presence of functioning smoke alarms in homes. She also partners with city school art teachers during Fire Prevention Month to recognize

and celebrate art projects developed by students around the subject of fire prevention, and is a volunteer counselor at the Mid-Atlantic Burn Camp for Kids.

Stehle holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from James Madison University and Master of Science degree from Liberty University. She is certified as a Juvenile Youth Firesetter intervention officer and a child passenger safety seat technician, and has taught extensively on the national level.

More about the Center for Public Safety Excellence can be found at [www.cpse.org](http://www.cpse.org).

**The Harrisonburg Fire Department** is an ISO-Class II All-Hazards agency providing essential emergency and non-emergency life safety services to the public who live, work and travel in Harrisonburg. More information about the Fire Department is available on-line at [www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire) or on Facebook®, Twitter® and Instagram®.

**The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).



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