For Immediate Release
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Portsmouth Fire Department Wins Diversity & Inclusion Award

FIRE 20/20 has selected Portsmouth as a winner of the first annual Tony Pini Diversity & Inclusion in the Fire Service Award for outstanding work to build and nourish a diverse and inclusive fire department culture. Twelve semi-finalists were selected from a field of 40 nominations from throughout North America and the Portsmouth Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services has been announced as one of the four winners.

The four winning departments will be presented with awards during a ceremony at the Diversity Breakfast of the Fire Rescue International Conference in Atlanta on August 25th. Awards will be presented by the sponsors of the 2011 Tony Pini Awards: FIRE 20/20, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, LION, and Scott Safety.

"The Portsmouth Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Department is truly honored to receive the Toni Pini Award," said Fire Chief Don J. Horton. "This award indicates to all that change and progress as it relates to inclusion and fairness can occur when supported throughout the entire organization from top to bottom," Horton added.

FIRE 20/20, a non-profit organization, connects Fire/EMS with their multicultural communities to increase the reach and effectiveness of diversity recruitment and retention, emergency response, and community risk reduction programs.

The Tony Pini Awards are named for the late Santa Rosa, CA Fire Chief Tony Pini, who demonstrated a lifelong commitment to diversity and inclusion. Chief Pini was a founder and an active member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs' (IAFC) Human Relations Committee, a member of the IAFC Ethics Task Force, a past chair of the California Fire Chiefs' Cultural Diversity Committee, and a founding board member of FIRE 20/20.

The awards selection committee was comprised of volunteers from the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF), International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services (iWomen), National Association of Hispanic Firefighters (NAHF), National Native American Fire Chiefs Association (NNAFCA), National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), Volunteer Chief Officers Section (VCOS) and the Human Relations Committee of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

For the news release from FIRE 20/20 which includes detailed information on the four award winners, click here: [download a PDF of this release here]

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