

A photograph of two firefighters in full protective gear. One firefighter is positioned on a wooden extension ladder, reaching up to spray a powerful stream of water from a hose onto the ceiling of a building. The water is captured in mid-air, creating a dense mist. The second firefighter stands on the ground, looking up at the first. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the water spray, which creates a dramatic, high-contrast effect. The background shows the interior structure of a building, including ceiling beams and a door.

Prairieville Fire Department

ASCENSION FIRE DISTRICT 3

2023

DEAR FELLOW PRAIRIEVILLE RESIDENT,

Welcome to this summary of the many activities and numerous outreaches of The Prairieville Fire Department. Our mission, keeping you safe, is the same as it was in 1970, when volunteers first established fire protection for our area.

Perhaps the biggest news I can share is that our fire protection rating has further improved from Class 3 to Class 2. Please read the story explaining this rating and what it could mean for your insurance premiums.

Each year we respond to thousands of calls and as Prairieville grows, so do we. To stay ahead of this ever-increasing demand, we have graduated another class of highly trained, professional first responders who are now on the job. Also, plans are still progressing for building a new station in the southern end of our community in the Bluff Road area.

One of the most enjoyable parts of our work is community involvement, visiting schools and interacting with guests at our stations. If you'd like us to come by or want to see our facilities, please call.

We recently experienced one of the hottest and driest summers on record. An item in this report outlines our efforts to stay safe in the extreme heat and efforts to support fellow firefighters as they battled wildfires in our area and Southwest Louisiana.

Do not hesitate to dial 911 at any time should you need us, whether it's a fire, serious accident, or sudden illness. Seconds make a difference, and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



MARK STEWART
Chief, Prairieville Fire
Department
Ascension Fire District 3
mstewart@prairievillefire.com

FIRE RATING IMPROVES

3 >>> 2

Ascension Parish Fire District 3, The Prairieville Fire Department, has improved its rating from class 3 to class 2 in an evaluation by the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana. Ratings are comprised of 50% fire department facilities, equipment, and personnel, 40% water system and 10% communications. Upgrades have been made in all three categories. Fire Districts are rated on a scale from 1 to 10 with 1 being the highest obtainable score.

"Much of the credit for this improved rating goes to the dedicated men and women who work diligently every day to keep the people of our area safe," Chief Stewart said. "Further credit is due to Ascension Parish Water Company and our sheriff's office and its emergency communications center."

The improved rating could mean lower fire insurance premiums for property owners. "It is important that you check with your agent as there are many variables in coverage," Chief Stewart said.



JOINING OUR RANKS

Having successfully completed 18 weeks of thorough classroom, physical and practical training, graduates of PFD's Recruit Class 4 are now on duty and working to keep you safe. In addition to intensive instruction, firefighters must pass certification exams at the Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy before becoming a member of the department. To meet the needs of our growing community, Recruit Class 5 has formed and started its work toward certification.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

PFD's Bryant Denison was honored at the 48th annual Knights of Columbus appreciation banquet as 2023 Firefighter of the Year.

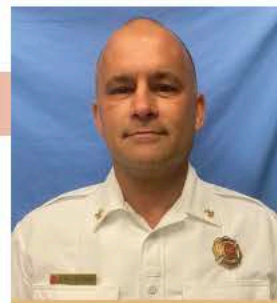
Denison is a product of our third recruiting class and excelled in all aspects of the intensive hands-on, classroom and physical fitness training. A certified Emergency Medical Technician, his extensive knowledge of hazardous material handling, mentoring of younger firefighters and positive attitude make him a great asset to our department.



*PFD Firefighter of the Year
Bryant Denison with Chief
Mark Stewart and Deputy
Chief Pat Carpenter.*

LACOMBE RETIRES

After 32 years of working to keep our community safe, Chief Chris Lacombe has retired. He joined the then Prairieville Volunteer Fire Department at 14 as a Jr. Firefighter and was often the first person at the station when a call for help came over the radio. Thank you, Chris, for your dedicated service. Enjoy your well-deserved 'time off.'



Chief Chris Lacombe



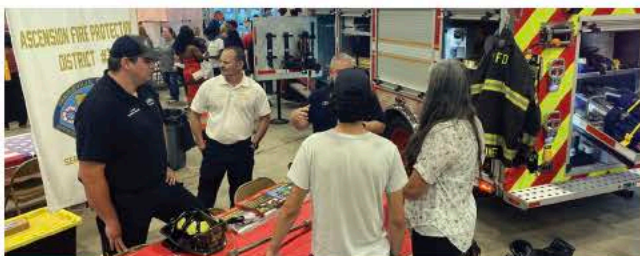
Looking back at our response procedures in a classroom setting allows PFD to further improve its operations.

AFTER ACTION REVIEWS

Using unique software that simulates structural fires, the PFD conducts After Action Reviews to critique our response to a major incident and prepare for the next one.

"The old saying, there's always room for improvement is certainly true when we re-create our actions in a classroom environment, giving us the luxury of ample time for analyzation," Chief Stewart said. "These sessions also review recorded radio traffic, allowing us to streamline and clarify communication practices."

From the time the call comes in until the time we pack up to leave, everything that occurred during the incident is critiqued. Chief Stewart said the reviews are vital to the PFD's commitment to continual improvement "By allowing us to take a close look at what we did and what we can maybe do a little better."



PFD personnel offer information on the many opportunities in emergency services at the Ascension Career & College Expo.

CAREERS IN EMS

Work as a first responder is a rewarding profession and we continue our efforts to recruit new employees and inform students of career opportunities within the field.

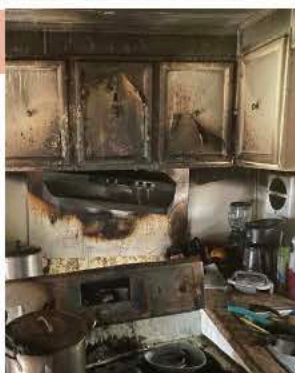
Recently, some 250 students from all public high schools in the parish attended Ascension EMS Day at Dutchtown High, where they visited with our personnel for firsthand information on what we do. We also participated in the Ascension Career & College Expo at Lamar Dixon, offering insight into careers in the fire and emergency services field.

If a career as a first responder interests you, stop by our main office on Highway 73 and pick up a job application. The PFD is a great place to work.

HOME FIRE SAFETY

Research from The National Fire Protection Association shows that some 358,000 house fires each year cause more than \$1 billion dollars in damage and are responsible for seven deaths each day. Most of these fires start in the kitchen and are a result of unattended cooking.

- If you leave the kitchen, turn off the burner.
- Never put water on a grease fire, cover it.
- Keep a fire extinguisher within easy reach.
- Other major causes of house fires are heating equipment and electrical malfunctions.



The kitchen can be the most dangerous room in your house.



PFD personnel help extinguish a grass fire.

HOT AND DRY!

Those two words sum up the summer of 2023, as extreme heat and drought combined for dangerous conditions across most of Louisiana.

"It's hot enough inside our bunker gear and adding 100-degree temperatures to the mix makes it downright dangerous," Chief Stewart said. "In these situations, we take extra precautions, including more frequent breaks and paying particular attention to hydration to ensure our personnel are not overcome by the heat."

PFD sent firefighters to assist first responders in Southwest Louisiana, where wildfires burned tens of thousands of acres. Locally, our people put one out near Highway 42 in Prairieville and along with several other local departments through our mutual aid agreements, contained a large grass fire in Iberville Parish.



Nurses and PFD coordinate trauma care.

TRAUMA NURSING COURSE

Most of the calls we receive for assistance are medical in nature. As part of an ongoing effort to standardize care among first responders and emergency room personnel, PFD recently hosted a Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) with nurses from several local hospitals. Participants learn the importance of and how to provide a uniform approach to caring for trauma patients.

"When we transport a person to a hospital, emergency nurses become an essential part of the first response team," Chief Stewart said. "Ensuring that everyone is aware of what was done, what is being done and what is going to be done is vitally important. This training also enhances team communication for more positive outcomes."

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Most of our requests for assistance are medical emergencies. Dial 911 immediately if you need help and teach children how to and when to call. With just about everyone having a phone on their person, there's no reason to wait.

2023 to Date	3,069
2022	3,617
2021	3,729





Prairieville Fire Department

Ascension Fire District 3

14517 LA Highway 73
Prairieville, LA 70769
225.673.6663

prairievillefire.com

Mark Stewart, Chief

Pat Carpenter, Deputy Chief

Prairieville Fire Department



In Any Emergency, Dial 911

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Gary Newman
President



Tracy
Burns



David
Commander



Cody
Melancon



Raymond
Vince



Across the country and here in Prairieville, Firehouse Subs Restaurant donates a portion of its proceeds to fire departments to help with the cost of equipment and training.



NIGHT TRAINING

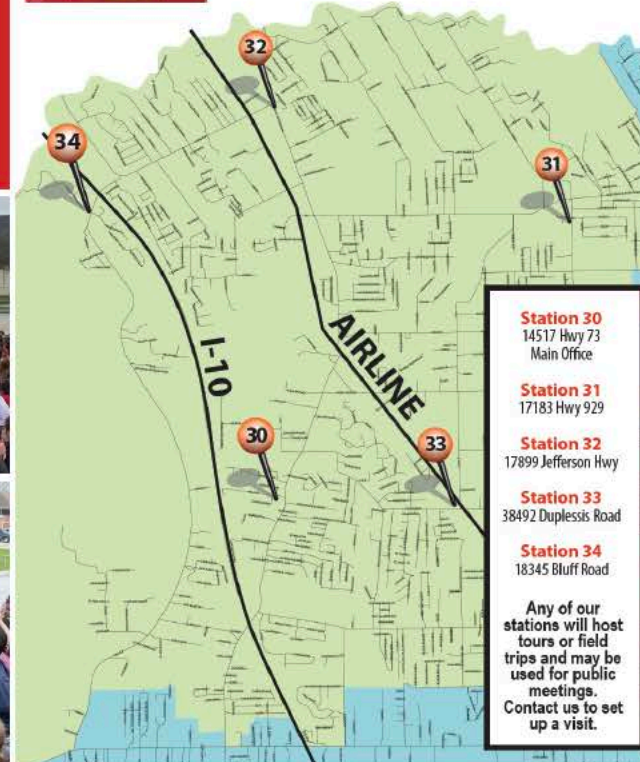
PFD personnel often train at night as not all emergencies occur during daylight.



Teach children how and when to dial 911 and that it can be important to **stay on the line** to help dispatchers gather information about the emergency.

TEACHING FIRE SAFETY

During October, which is fire prevention month, we visit every school and day care in Fire District 3. We are available throughout the year to come to your meeting or event to deliver a fire safety message or demonstrate our equipment. Let us know if you'd like us to stop by.



- Station 30**
14517 Hwy 73
Main Office
- Station 31**
17183 Hwy 929
- Station 32**
17899 Jefferson Hwy
- Station 33**
38492 Duplessis Road
- Station 34**
18345 Bluff Road

Any of our stations will host tours or field trips and may be used for public meetings. Contact us to set up a visit.