

ASCENSION FIRE DISTRICT 3

Prairieville Fire Department

2024



Dear Fellow Prairieville Resident,



Ascension Fire District 3, or as most people know us, The Prairieville Fire Department participates in numerous activities in our community each year. Please allow me to

welcome you to this report on just a few of the many things we do to keep you and your family safe every day.

Thank you for making time recently to vote to renew the property tax millage that funds our operations. With this revenue source, we can continue working to serve the more than 40,000 residents in the 35-square-mile Prairieville area.

The PFD is taking steps to prepare our department for the increasing local and national demand for first responders. We recently graduated our seventh class of recruits, adding six new members to our department and started a program for high school seniors that will give them a great head start on a career in fire and emergency medical response. The opening of the new Prairieville High School has widened our mission and we have prepared personnel to meet the potential need for our services there.

Our excellent Class 2 Fire Protection Rating has been maintained, which helps to keep fire insurance premiums down. We continue to work to strengthen our training programs, ensuring that should you call for help, we will respond with the proper personnel and equipment needed to handle your emergency in a timely and professional manner.

Since 1970, the PFD has been ready to serve you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. In any emergency, do not hesitate to call 911 and we will respond.

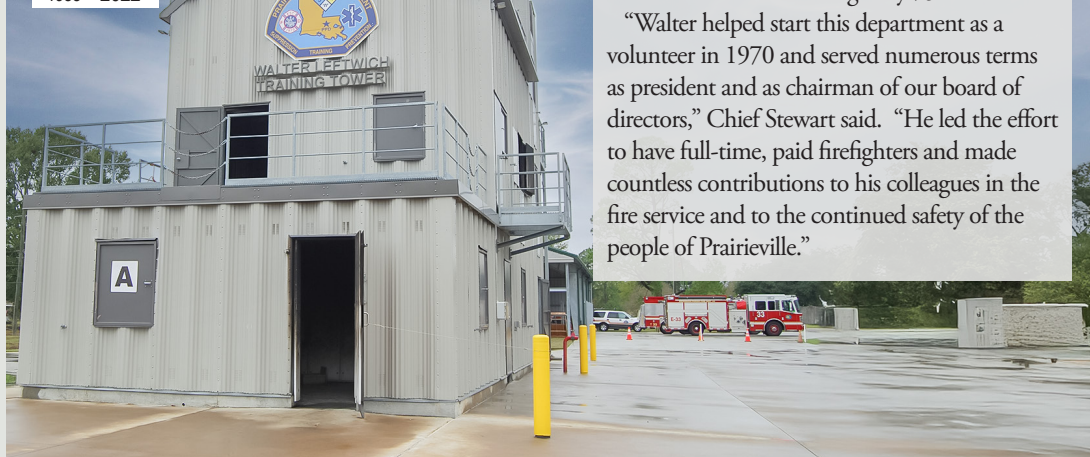
Please let me know if I or this department can ever be of service to you.

Sincerely,

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



Walter Leftwich
1935 – 2022



Leftwich Tower Dedication

An instrumental leader and lifelong member of the PFD has been memorialized with the dedication of the Walter Leftwich Training Tower at our main station on Highway 73.

“Walter helped start this department as a volunteer in 1970 and served numerous terms as president and as chairman of our board of directors,” Chief Stewart said. “He led the effort to have full-time, paid firefighters and made countless contributions to his colleagues in the fire service and to the continued safety of the people of Prairieville.”

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Firefighters of The Year



Firefighter of the Year Captain Mike Reeves with Kevin Wild of St. John KC and Assistant Chief Pat Carpenter

Knights of Columbus

Captain Mike Reeves is the 49th annual Knights of Columbus Firefighter of the Year. With a passion for learning and teaching, he mentors younger firefighters and regularly assists with training, special projects and fire safety education. Captain Reeves joined the PFD as a volunteer in 2004 and took on a full-time role in 2011.

Kiwanis Club

Chief of Training Jesse Wingate is the Kiwanis Club's Firefighter of the Year, chosen from nominations made in Louisiana, Mississippi and Western Tennessee. The clubs made a contribution in Chief Wingate's name to the Baton Rouge General Foundation to Camp Catahoula, which serves pediatric burn patients.



Chief of Training
Jesse Wingate

Executive Fire Officer

Assistant Chief Kevin Smith has completed the Executive Fire Officer Program from the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The first PFD member to finish the program and the 26th person in Louisiana, he joins an elite group of 4,800 graduates worldwide committed to meet the ever-changing demands of the communities they serve.



Assistant Chief
Kevin Smith

Training Class 7



Training Graduates: (L-R) Peter Liotta, Remy Hopkins - Gonzales Fire Department, Devereux Guillory, Cade Reynolds, Zack Bergeron, Connor Ferrill, Triston Blackmon

Recent graduation ceremonies for new trainees marked the successful completion of the classroom and practical instruction needed to serve as firefighters. This is the seventh training class we have conducted with six of the new first responders joining our ranks and one becoming a member of the Gonzales Fire Department.

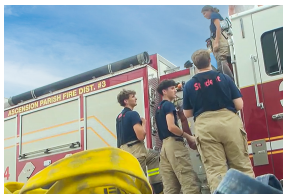
High School Firefighter Program

In partnership with Ascension Public Schools, the PFD has started a program for high school seniors where they can achieve nationally accredited certifications in firefighting and hazardous materials mitigation.

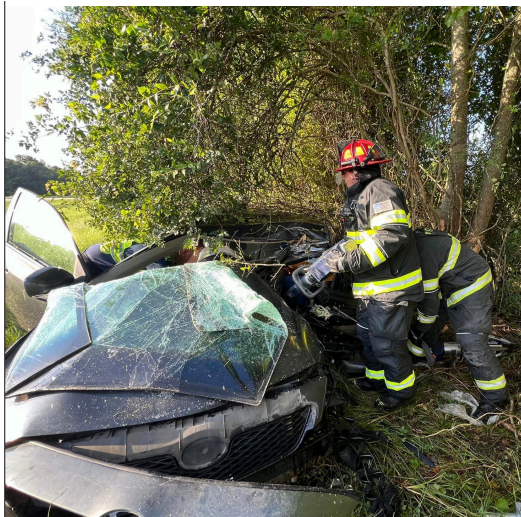
"The need for first responders continues to increase and these graduates will have the qualifications required to be hired by fire departments here and across the nation," Chief Stewart said.

"Local emergency services will be enhanced as every volunteer or full-time department can draw from a larger pool of better-prepared people to serve our community."

The program is certified by the Louisiana State Fire and Emergency Training Academy and the state department of education. For information, please contact us.



High school seniors handle fire hoses as part of their practical training for careers in emergency response.



Vehicle Fires

Across the country, fire departments respond to some 300,000 vehicle fires per year, accounting for close to 17% of all reported fires. The National Fire Protection Agency also estimates that these fires cause more than 1,500 injuries, 500 deaths and \$1.3 billion in property damage.

"We are responding to more electric car battery fires," Chief Stewart said. "These fires have combustible plastic, flammable liquids, electrical components and metal and are extremely hot with toxic fumes. They can take up to ten times

- If you are going to charge your car with an option higher than a 110-volt household system, hire a licensed electrician to install it.
- Perform regular maintenance and inspections.

If You Transport Flammable Materials

- Tightly seal gas cans or propane tanks and place them on a flat surface.
- Open windows to let fumes escape.

more water to extinguish than gas-powered vehicles and sometimes, we must let the battery burn itself out."

PFD personnel regularly train to handle auto fires and provide medical help in an accident, including advanced techniques to safely remove motorists from damaged vehicles.



**Teach children
how and when
to dial 911.**



Do You Have a Fire Extinguisher?

The risk of a home fire is real for everyone. Keep a fire extinguisher on each floor of your home, particularly in the kitchen and laundry areas. Inspect it regularly to ensure it is fully charged.



APSO Explorers

We work closely with the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office and other agencies to support many outreaches promoting public safety. The APSO Explorer program offers young people ages 14 to 18 the opportunity to experience basic law enforcement and emergency response situations while enhancing self-confidence and teamwork skills.

APSO Explorers recently visited our main station and studied first aid techniques and our response procedures and put on bunker gear and handled live fire hoses. For information on visiting one of our stations, call 225.673.6663. For the Explorers program, contact the sheriff's office at 225.621.8300.

Calls for Service

Most of the calls for help we receive are for medical emergencies. Motor vehicle accidents come in second and actual residential fires third. Whatever your emergency, dial 911 and we will respond as quickly as possible.

2024 to Date	2,919
2023	3,506
2022	3,617

Are They Working?



Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are performing properly. These devices save lives.



New Prairieville High School

The much-awaited, \$118 million, 180,000-square-foot Prairieville High School has opened with classroom space for 2,000 students, two gymnasiums, athletic fields, a media center and fieldhouse.

"Personnel on all of our shifts have been through the new facility to familiarize themselves with building floorplans and the layout of the 65-acre campus," Chief Stewart said. "If emergency services are needed, we will know exactly where to go."

Currently, about 1,300 students are enrolled at the school on Parker Road.



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

**Any of our stations can be used for public meetings.
Call for details.**

Station 30

14517 Highway 73, Main Office

Station 33

38492 Duplessis Road

Station 31

17183 Highway 929

Station 34

18345 Bluff Road

Station 32

17899 Jefferson Highway

Christmas Toy Giveaway

As part of our responsibility to use every opportunity we can to give back to the community that supports us, PFD employees used a portion of their union dues to help local children at Christmas. Gifts were purchased, wrapped by employees and their families and then distributed. The program hopes to expand in the coming years to ensure that every child has a great holiday season.

Donation to Miracle League Charity

The PFD took part in the Louisiana Firefighters Foundation Fall Softball Classic, with proceeds going toward building a field for the Miracle League of Baton Rouge, which serves children and adults with physical or mental disabilities that could exclude them from conventional baseball activities. The first Miracle League field opened in 2000 in Georgia.

Fire Safety Education

We would welcome the opportunity to visit your school or civic association and provide a free program on fire safety. Tours can also be scheduled for your group at any of our stations. Contact us for details.

