

Prairieville Fire Department Ascension Fire District 3

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Prairieville Fire Department Ascension Fire District 3 2021

Dear fellow Prairieville resident,

On behalf of Ascension Fire District 3 – better known as the Prairieville Fire Department – I welcome you to this summary of the many programs and activities we undertake to serve you.

Through conservative budgeting, our department ended the last fiscal year with a fund surplus, allowing us to hire more firefighters, purchase new equipment and start the process of acquiring land for new facilities without asking for a tax increase.

This issue focuses on our strong, award-winning training programs that ensure our personnel respond to your emergency in a timely manner and with the proper knowledge and training needed to expertly handle the situation. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, PFD personnel are utilizing the safest first responder techniques and latest procedures while staying ready to assist you 24/7/365.

Also in this edition are articles detailing improvements to our facilities, new equipment, our work during Hurricane Ida, community partnerships, a new 911 memorial and tips to keep you and your family safe.

Plans to construct another new fire station are taking shape. Once completed, this new facility will give us six locations to serve the 40,000 residents of our community.

As always, we welcome your visit to any of our stations so you can see for yourself what we do to protect you. Please call us to arrange a tour and let me know if there is any way I or this department can ever be of service to you. In any emergency, do not hesitate to dial 911.

Sincerely,

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

THANK YOU!



Representatives of Winn Dixie present a check to the PFD to help fund our work. Firehouse Subs also contributes a part of its proceeds to first responding agencies across the country.



Hurricane Ida

Although numerous homes and businesses suffered damage from Hurricane Ida, our community was spared the level of destruction suffered by many of our neighboring parishes. As Ida approached, we made sure every piece of equipment was functioning properly and our high-water vehicles and boats were ready. Our main office served as a sandbag distribution point.

During the storm, our crews were double staffed and we responded to several rescue calls, a structural fire and a fatality due to a fallen tree. At first light after Ida passed, PFD personnel were out assessing damage and clearing roadways.



SAFETY

Portable generators can help keep your home livable, but they can be deadly because of carbon monoxide emissions.

Generator Safety Tips:

- Keep generators OUTDOORS – at least 20 feet from your home.
- TURN OFF and allow generators to cool before refueling.
- Use HEAVY DUTY extension cords to power appliances.

By the Numbers

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

Calls for Service

2019..... 3,060
2020..... 3,152
2021 to date.... 3,194

NEW



Chief of Training

Jesse Wingate is our new Chief of Training. He develops, implements and coordinates sessions and professional advancement for our people. PFD

personnel receive some 300 hours of annual instruction on firefighting, first responder medical training, hazardous material incident protocol and rescue operations.

New Firetrucks

Two new firetrucks with a price tag of some \$450,000 each have been put into service to further enhance our readiness. These engines bring our fleet to six trucks, with one engine held in reserve should it be needed. Fire engines have a 15-to-20-year lifespan and those replaced were 2001 and 2007 models. The new engines will require less maintenance, saving money in the long run. The oldest engine will be donated to a local fire department.

New Station Planned

We are working to acquire the land needed to build our sixth station. Property near the Southern end of Bluff Road is being considered as that location would provide a somewhat equal distance between existing facilities. The new station will help us stay ahead of the need for emergency services as our community continues to grow.



New Pavilion

A recently constructed pavilion near our main office strengthens our training programs while providing storage space for equipment. "We can now practice vehicle extraction techniques and other exercises regardless of the weather," Chief Stewart said. "Our training programs are some of the best anywhere and we are properly prepared to respond to your call."

Insurance Premium Rebate

Praireville Fire Department received a \$142,857.15 fire insurance premium rebate check to help fund our operations. Checks were presented to all fire departments in the parish, with PFD's being the largest as we serve some 40,000 people.

TRAINING

Swift Water/Flood Rescue

In a recent joint training exercise, Prairieville and Donaldsonville Fire Department personnel renewed their Swift Water/Flood Rescue Technician certifications, ensuring an effective response to such situations.

"This type of rescue can be extremely challenging as conditions can change in seconds as water rises or recedes," Chief Stewart said. "Practical training in the water further sharpens our skills and keeps us up-to-date on life-saving techniques."

Fire Investigation

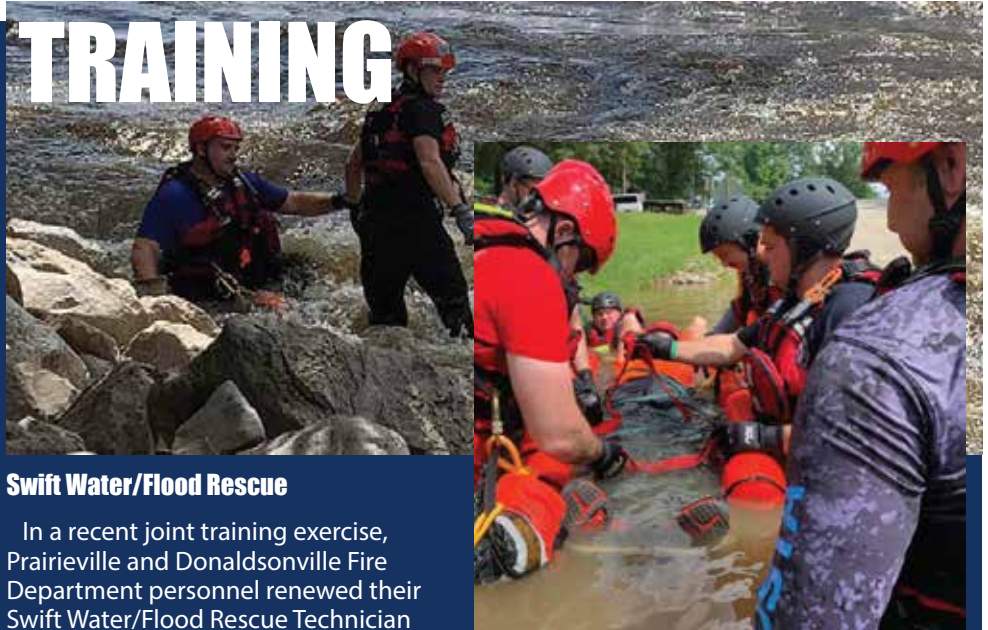
Through a mutual benefit agreement with local departments, firefighters from the PFD and St. George FD completed three days of classroom instruction and practical exercises to become Certified Fire Investigators.



Captain Dakota Nickens is honored for his achievements with Chief Mark Stewart (L) and Deputy Chief Pat Carpenter (R).

Firefighter of the Year

PFD's Captain Dakota Nickens is the Knights of Columbus' Firefighter of the Year for 2021. He was honored at the annual program for his continued dedication, leadership, outstanding job performance and willingness to help others in the department.



**A Well-Trained
First Responder
is a Better
First Responder**



Recent Graduates

The largest class of recruits in our history recently completed six months of classroom and practical training. These men and women are now ready to serve and help protect our community.



Considering a career as a first responder? Stop by our main office on Highway 73 and pick up a job application.

