

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

Board of Commissioners
Walter Leftwich, President
Tracy Burns
David Commander
Cody Melancon
Gary Newman



 *Prairieville Fire Department*

In Any Emergency, Dial 911

PFD is Part of Prairieville



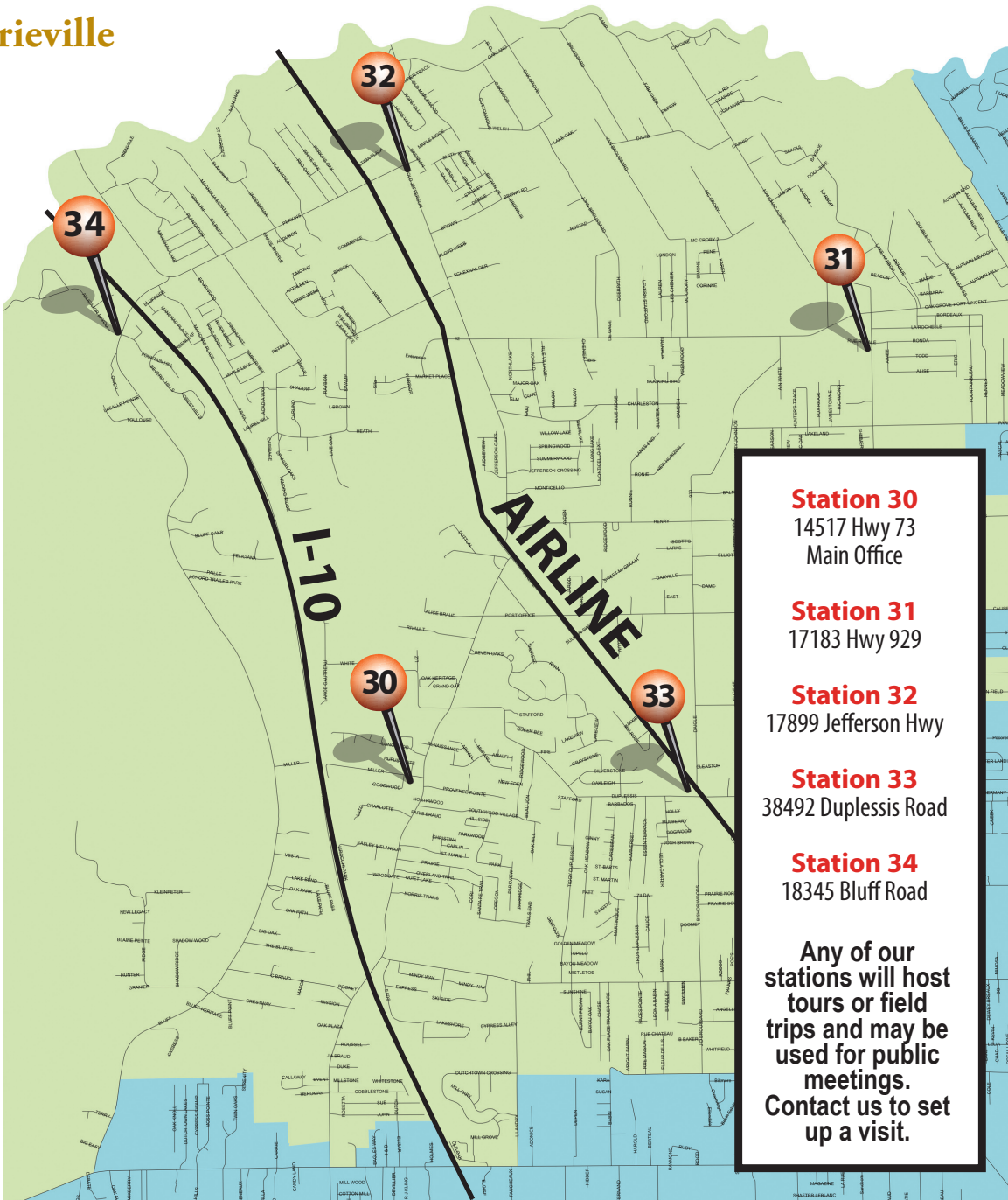
Visit our station on Highway 73 to see a piece of steel from the World Trade Center after the 911 attacks.



School Board Career Fair

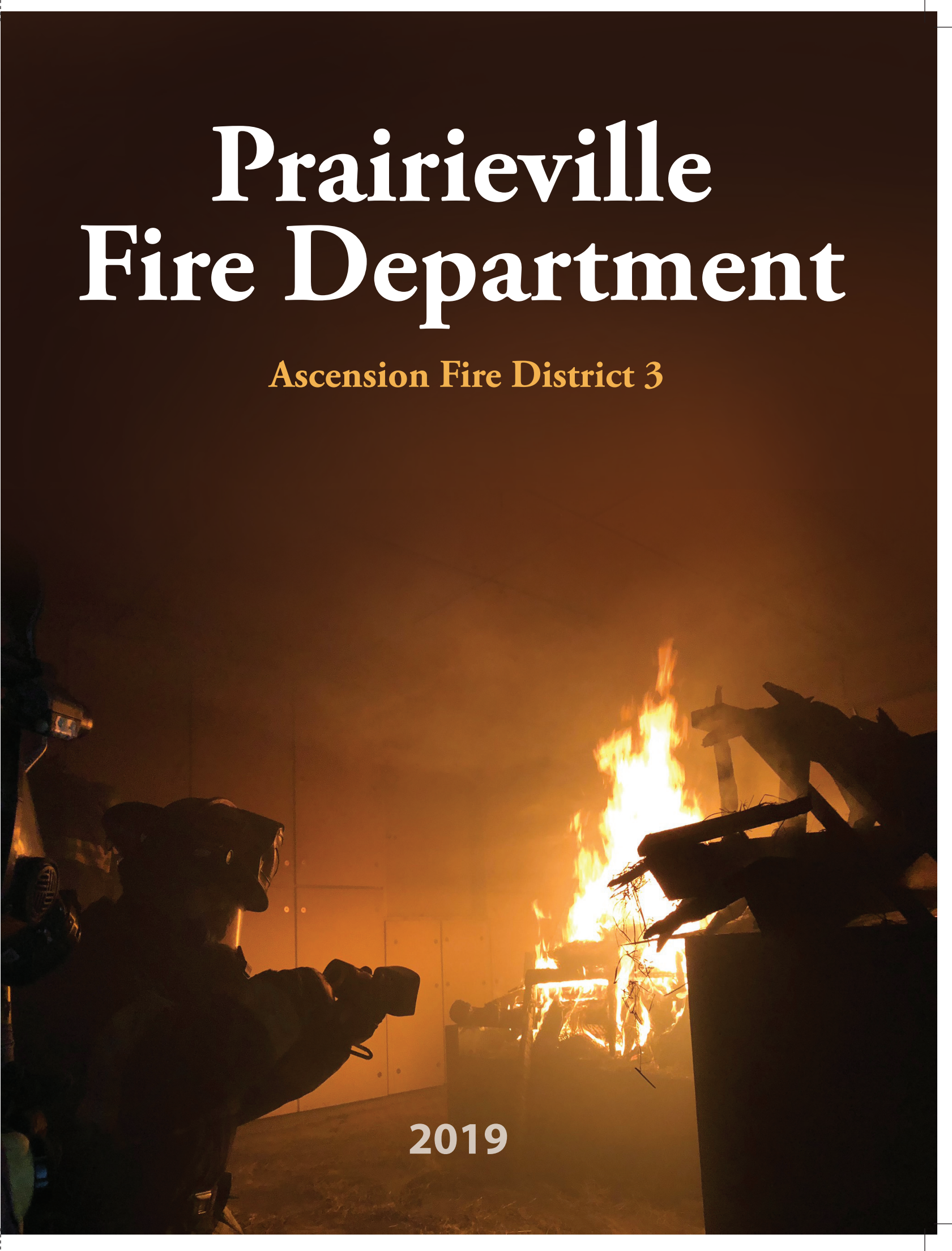


"Stuff the Bus" school supply drive



Prairieville Fire Department

Ascension Fire District 3



2019



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Dear fellow Prairieville resident,

Welcome to this report on some of the many activities and outreaches of Ascension Fire District 3 – or as we are usually called – the Prairieville Fire Department.

The dedicated men and women of this department stay prepared to answer your call for assistance as quickly as possible, making sure that the proper equipment and personnel are dispatched in each incident to expertly handle the situation.

The PFD trains continually to stay up-to-date on the latest technology and techniques for emergency responders that can save lives.

Great strides have been made to further enhance our outstanding training programs as the first class of recruits completely taught here has graduated and is serving the community. A new burn building has been constructed, allowing us to conduct firefighting and first responder exercises at our main station and our office is being expanded to host more classes and better serve you.

Our fire rating remains a solid 3, which means potential savings on your insurance premiums. Each policy and home or business is different and I encourage you to contact your agent to review your coverage.

The PFD remains deeply involved in our community. As part of our continuing efforts to protect you, we partner with schools and civic organizations to spread fire safety and prevention messages through numerous visits and educational programs.

There is a common vein running through each member of our department and all first responders. We are here to keep you safe and assist you to the best of our ability in any emergency.

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

Sincerely,

MARK STEWART

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



Deputy Chief Pat Carpenter (L) and Chief Mark Stewart (R) with Firefighter/Operator Caleb Lavigne at the 44th Annual Knights of Columbus Firefighter of the Year banquet.

Firefighter of the Year

Firefighter/Operator Caleb Lavigne is the PFD's Knights of Columbus Firefighter of the Year for 2019.

Lavigne is a graduate of the St. George Fire Department training program and has been with the PFD since February of 2017. Also a certified Emergency Medical Technician, he is one of the many dedicated firefighters of the PFD who work hard every day to keep our community safe.

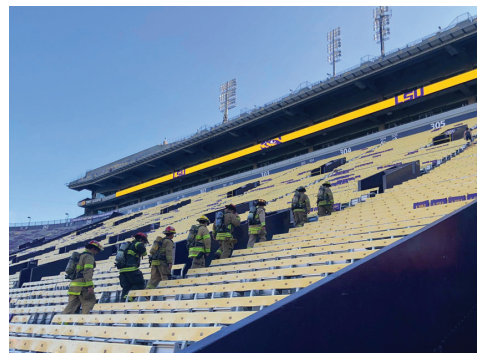


Recruit Class One

The first class of recruits trained completely in-house at the PFD recently graduated and is now working to protect our community. The 12 members of Recruit Class One were from the East Side Fire Department in Baton Rouge and the Gonzales, Prairieville and Donaldsonville Fire Departments here in Ascension.

"Class members underwent intensive training in firefighting, rescue and emergency medical procedures," Chief Stewart said. "Our certified instructors will continue to train not only our personnel but those from other agencies as we all continue to work together to ensure public safety."

You may have as little as two minutes to escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Make an escape plan, including a designated place where you will meet outside the home and practice it with your children.



911 Remembrance

PFD personnel joined other local firefighters in silent, memorial climbs to commemorate the lives of first responders lost in the September 11, 1991, terrorist attacks.

The groups, including PFD's Mike Esterly, Stephen Gibbs, Nick Murphy, Dakota Nickens and Kyle Parker, climbed LSU's Tiger Stadium and the 51 stories of the Hancock Whitney Center, formerly One Shell Square, on Poydras Street in New Orleans to honor the 411 first responders who lost their lives on 911. Climbers wore their full gear – some 70 pounds of equipment – and lanyards with photos of the fallen heroes.



You Just Never Know...

We stay ready 24/7/365 to respond to your call for assistance and some days it's anything but predictable. We recently responded to an incident at a local business where a motorist took "drive-thru service" a little too far. Fortunately, no one was injured.



PFD firefighters train at the new burn building.

Burn Building/Training

A new training structure on the campus of our main station on Highway 73 helps ensure that PFD personnel are among the best trained in the state.

"This custom-designed, three-story building allows us to practice emergency response using the latest technology," Chief Stewart said. "With special burn and confined space rooms, a smoke distribution system, sprinklers, a maze, balcony and rappelling rail, our personnel will stay current on firefighting and life-saving techniques."

Chief Stewart said construction of the \$625,000 special concrete and nonflammable materials building was self-funded by property tax millages. He said it can be used by any local fire department, law enforcement or first responder group for training. "It is here to be shared as we all work together to protect you."

Construction materials were donated or provided at a reduced cost by several local businesses including Ascension Water Company, Austin Fire Systems, Process Pumps & Equipment and Quality Concrete Group.

The Numbers

When you call for help, we respond immediately, sending the right equipment and people to handle your emergency. The PFD also answers calls for assistance in motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material incidents and emergency medical situations.

Calls for Service

2018 **2,314**

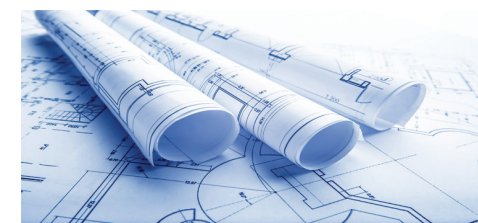
2019 to date **2,652**



PFD personnel recently participated in specialized training on proper procedures to assist or transport an injured athlete. Great care must be exercised in such situations as improperly moving an injured person may cause irreparable harm.



Many of the emergency calls we receive are requests for assistance at automobile accidents. Our personnel frequently train in the use of special equipment that can extricate a victim from a crashed car and specific first aid techniques to assist those involved.



Growing as Prairieville Does

As our community expands, so do we. A 3,000-square-foot addition to our main station is underway, adding much-needed administrative space and room for conducting training sessions, classes and meetings.

A dividable room will allow us to hold simultaneous events. New shower facilities will be provided for personnel training at our burn building as well as temporary living space for first responders in the event of a disaster. Completion is expected in the summer of 2020.

Our fire stations may be used as a meeting space for your organization. Contact us for details at 225.673.6663.

Make sure your house number can be seen from the road so emergency responders can quickly find you.



Dutchtown High School students participate in a first responder drill with PFD and East Baton Rouge EMS personnel.

Partners in Education

We maintain a healthy relationship and strong presence at Dutchtown High, the largest school in Fire District 3. Besides providing emergency medical standby services at athletic events, graduation and the annual Dutchtown High Marching Band Festival, we take an active role in supporting the school's Emergency Medical Responder curriculum for students interested in careers in this field.

Along with the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, Army National Guard and East Baton Rouge Parish Emergency Medical Services, we also participate in the school's annual field day.

PFD personnel also take part in active shooter drills at the school. We have recently purchased body armor to outfit all firefighters who would respond to such a situation.



The PFD visits every school in our district at least once a year. We also call on child and elderly care centers to teach fire safety and prevention.



Come Join Us

If a career as a firefighter or first responder interests you, or if you'd like to volunteer your time to help us, please stop by the PFD main station at 14517 Highway 73 for information.