

Prairieville Fire Department

Ascension Fire District 3

YEARS OF SERVICE
50
1970 2020



**Prairieville
Fire Department**
Ascension Fire District 3
2020

Dear fellow Prairieville resident,

Please allow me to welcome you to this report on some of the outreaches we undertake and upgrades we make in our continual effort to keep you and your family safe.

2020 marks 50 years since the PFD was founded by civic-minded individuals who saw a need and worked tirelessly to fill it. The organization was totally volunteer back in 1970 and remained so for many years. We now provide five, fully-staffed stations manned by 45 professional firefighters and emergency medical responders who are available 24/7/365.

Speaking of improvements, a 3,000-square-foot expansion to our main office on Highway 73 is complete. The new space will be used in many ways, including hosting more training programs and housing personnel should our community need support in a disaster. As always, you are welcome to stop by and have a look for yourself. Call if you'd like to arrange a tour of any of our stations for your group.

As COVID-19 continues to be a concern for our community, state and nation, we have instituted special procedures when responding to your call for help. We will continue to do all we can to limit the spread of the virus while rendering assistance in a medical or fire emergency.

Teaching fire safety remains a top priority and we keep working to educate and protect the 40,000 or so residents and 35 square miles of Prairieville from residential and commercial fire incidents. Medical emergencies continue to be a large portion of our calls and we are strengthening training for our people, helping them achieve advanced certifications that will allow them to do even more to help you in these situations.

In any emergency, do not hesitate to call 911 and 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



50 Years of Service

In 1969, after St. John Catholic Church was destroyed by a blaze, local civic leaders realized the need for fire protection. The Prairieville Volunteer Fire Department was formed and chartered by the state in 1970. As people say, the rest is history.

As years passed, the all-volunteer department got larger and kept up with calls for assistance. But, Prairieville was growing fast. Additional equipment and consistent funding was needed to provide sufficient fire protection.

In early 2005, some of the founding members began a grassroots campaign seeking dedicated tax millages to fund the department. A special taxing district for the Prairieville area was created and Ascension Parish Fire District #3 was born. Voters recently renewed this funding source.

From one truck and a barn to five modern fire stations staffed around-the-clock by professional firefighters and emergency medical personnel who save lives, the PFD has come a long way. The same spirit of supporting and keeping our community safe that began five decades ago continues today.

Here's to the next 50 years!

PFD Chiefs

Ronald Benoit '70
Floyd Borne '71
William Kleinpeter '72
Robert Vincek '73
Valmond Brown '74
Sidney Leblanc '75-'76
Robert Vincik '77-'78
Virgil LeBlanc '79
Robert Vincik '80
Reeves Barrow '81-'82
Mike Lambert '83-'86
Jeff Poche '87-'88
James LeBlanc '89-'95
William Samuel '96
Danny Thibodeaux '97-'98
Mark Stewart '99-'00
Roland Guerin '01-'02
William Samuel '02-'05
Mark Stewart '06-present



Trench/Building Collapse

The Prairieville, Gonzales and Donaldsonville Fire Departments participated in trench and structural collapse rescue training to stay up-to-date on conducting such operations.



New Classroom/ Multi-Use Space

PFD personnel participate in a training program in the 3,000-square-foot addition to our main station. New office space and modern classroom equipment enhance our ability to hold PFD sessions as well as those for neighboring fire departments. Shower and kitchen facilities are available after training at our burn building and the space can house first responders in a disaster.



Parish President Clint Cointment (L) presents the Firefighter of the Year award to PFD's Brandon Cowell while Chief Mark Stewart and Deputy Chief Pat Carpenter look on.

Firefighter of the Year

PFD's Brandon Cowell is the Knights of Columbus' Firefighter of the Year for 2020. He was honored at the 45th annual program attended by community members and Ascension Parish Fire Services employees. Cowell is respected by his fellow firefighters for the high level of competence and skill he brings to each task, his integrity, perseverance and willingness to share his knowledge with younger co-workers.



Rescue Boat

The Prairieville and Donaldsonville Fire Departments recently completed training sessions for operating Rescue Boats. These special watercraft can be used in high water or flood situations. Thank you

Training, Training, Training...

We work every day to be the best department we can be. "Our personnel train and prepare to skillfully handle any situation they encounter when answering your call for help in a medical or fire emergency," Chief Stewart said. "A well-trained first responder is a better first responder."



Working Together

The PFD routinely trains with numerous other departments, such as St. George from Baton Rouge. Mutual aid agreements with other agencies ensure cooperation to keep you safe.

Night Training

Because not all emergencies occur during daylight, we routinely train at night. Our burn building at the main office on Highway 73 often serves as a hub for these activities.



PFD personnel handed out some 11,000 of the two million face masks donated by Hanes.

COVID-19 Care

Emergency responders have been rightfully recognized for continuing to do their jobs in the face of COVID-19. PFD continues to take extra precautions including employing more personal protection equipment to shield the people and family members of those we are called to help. When you ask for assistance, we will continue to make house calls.



New Equipment on the Way

As part of our continuing efforts to provide you with the best service possible, the PFD is in the process of acquiring two new fire engines to replace 2001 and 2007 models currently in service. The National Fire Protection Association recommends a 15 year lifespan for an engine.

The cost of a new, custom-built, highly-specialized engine is about \$450,000. "New engines will be more reliable and require less costly maintenance, saving our department money," Chief Stewart said.

The Numbers

We respond as quickly as possible to your call for help. Besides fire and medical emergencies, we also respond to motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material incidents and construction site mishaps. In any emergency, dial 911.

Calls for Service
2018 2,314
2019 3,060
2020 to date 2,877



Kitchen Fire Prevention

Kitchen fires are one of the leading causes of fire deaths in Louisiana and nearly half of all home fires start there when food or cooking materials such as utensils, potholders, kitchen towels or clothing ignite.

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking. If you must leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- If you are cooking something for a long time, check it often and use a timer as a reminder.
- Have an oven mitt and pan lid nearby. If a grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame and turn off the burner.
- Keep children away from the cooking area.



PFD firefighters respond to a mobile home fire.

Have an Escape Plan

Make a plan and practice it with your family. In a fire, you may only have minutes to escape.



Join Us

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

Check 'Em

Don't wait for daylight saving time to check or change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Test them monthly.

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



Firehouse Subs

PFD personnel join in the grand opening of the newest Firehouse Subs Restaurant in Prairieville. Firehouse donates a portion of its proceeds to fire departments to help offset the cost of equipment and training.

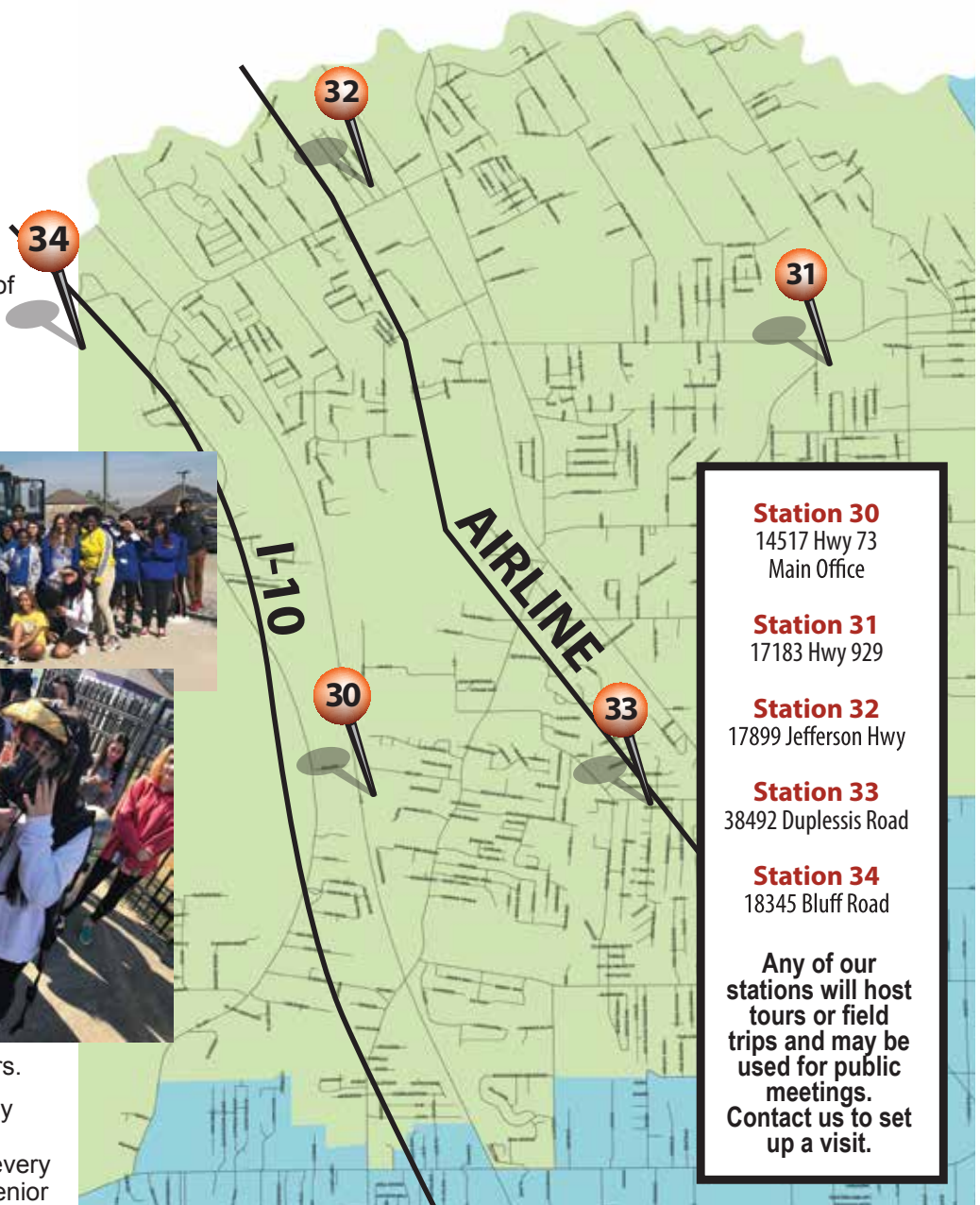


EMS Day at Dutchtown High

The PFD partners with Dutchtown High to guide students interested in careers as emergency medical and first responders. EMS Day allows students at our district's largest school to see firsthand some of the equipment we use and to personally interact with professional firefighters and first responders.



PFD provides emergency medical standby services at athletic and other events in our community. At least once a year, we visit every school in our district as well as child and senior care centers to present fire safety programs. Let us know and we'll visit with your organization as well.



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.