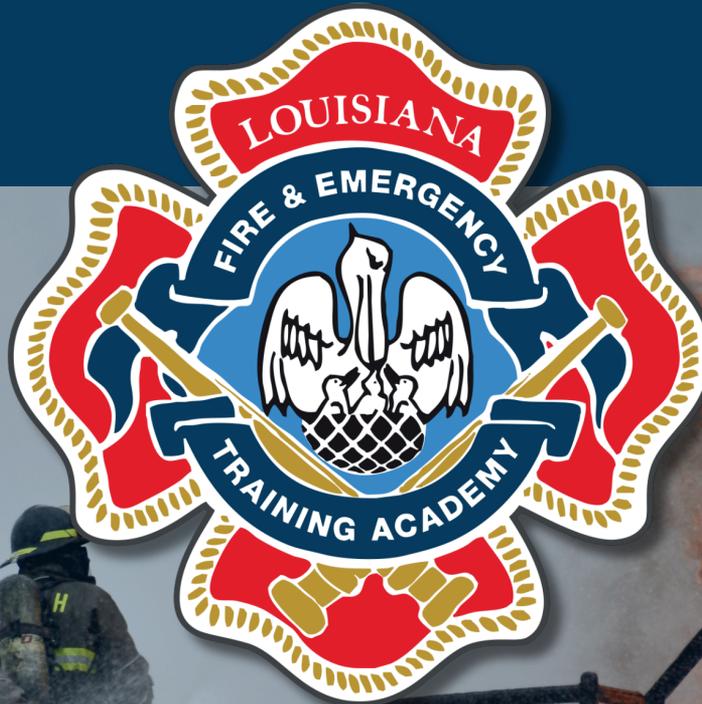


Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy

FETA
FLASHPOINT

The Academy Brief



MARCH 2026



Superintendent Says...



With the weather turning warm here in Louisiana, it's the perfect time to get outside and do the things we love. Forcible entry, extrication, initial attack, catching a hydrant and many more of what makes this one of the most gratifying times of year to train and teach.

We all have stories of training the new recruit or the old salt showing up the young guns. The point is simple, TRAIN!!! Sometimes it's fun and sometimes it's tough, but it all matters. Whether it's with your crew, shift or department, all of it helps keep us ready for the real world challenges

we face serving our communities.

Simple things like proper PPE, decontamination of equipment, gear and self are very important. Learn from those who have lost brothers and sisters before we knew the dangers and consequences. Safety is never optional!!!

Let's continue to promote the Operation Save-A-Life Program as much as we can. Recently a fire department-installed smoke alarm saved a St. John the Baptist Parish family and their dog from serious injury or even death. A working smoke alarm also recently saved another man in Gonzales. Great job!!! Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors save lives!!! Remind your residents about the free smoke alarms we give away through our Operation Save-A-Life program.

Keep training, keep preparing and keep saving lives!!!

Chief Tracey Normand

FETA Superintendent

Vision

We will meet the needs of our customers and create a destination fire academy. To do this, we will create sought after and memorable student experiences with knowledgeable and professional instructors that deliver curriculum that is current and relevant – supplemented with props on and off campus that are modern, clean, functional and safe. Committed to excellence, we will embrace new technology and techniques to adapt to the changing needs of our customers. We will be known as a premier training agency across the country.



Chiefs' Corner...



Lights, Camera, Action

As firefighters, we love flashing emergency lights, but we must remember we're always being watched. In today's world of phones and security cameras, our actions matter more than ever. We're not just the Fire Department—we're also customer service.

When I joined the Westwego Volunteer Fire Department in 1975 at 18 years old, I never imagined it would become my career. Around 3 a.m. on my first night, the air horn sounded for a major fire at the Westwego propane plant, long before pagers or 911. I grabbed gear off the truck, big coats and big boots, and while fighting the fire, realized I was wearing two left boots. I smiled, knowing someone more experienced had the two right ones. That was the start of a great career.

Eager to learn, I took every class I could, CPR, EMT, and eventually paramedic, while also working industrial fire and haz-mat. I responded to major incidents including the 1976 Luling Ferry Disaster, the 1977 Westwego Grain Elevator explosion, the 1982 Kenner Pan Am plane crash, and the Livingston train derailment. I served 33 years with New Orleans EMS, retiring as Deputy Chief of Operations, where I led responses for Mardi Gras, Super Bowls, presidential visits, hurricanes, and other major events.

Along the way, I wrote for Fire Chief Magazine, Firehouse, JEMS, and EMS Magazine, contributed to 13 EMS textbooks, and helped provide technical information used in developing the Stifneck Cervical Collar.

After retiring in 2019, I returned home as Fire Chief of the Westwego Volunteer Fire Department, a Combination Class 2 department across the Mississippi River from New Orleans. My top priorities are firefighter safety and serving the residents and visitors of Westwego. I strengthened our Standard Operating Guidelines and launched six teams focused on:

- Cancer Awareness
- Brain Health & Concussion Awareness
- Physical Fitness
- Behavioral Health
- Traffic Incident Management
- Fire Safety Reading Outreach for seniors and third graders

For more information, contact Chief@wwfc1.org.

Firefighters and Fire Chiefs are much like Eagle Scouts. As an Eagle Scout, I was guided by the Scout Law, Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent. As Fire Chief, I still live by those principles, and I've added one more: Integrity.

*Chief Ken Bouvier
Westwego Volunteer Fire Department*

In the Can...

Baton Rouge Campus



Rope Rescue Technician - February 2-4

- *The Rope Rescue Technician course trains responders to operate at the technician level in high- and low-angle environments, building and managing advanced rope systems for patient access and rescue. Students also learn hazard assessment and scene management. Prerequisite: Rope Rescue Operations. Graduates are eligible to take the IFSAC Rope Rescue Technician certification exam.*
- *13 students representing 5 departments*



Confined Space Rescue Refresher - February 18

- *This refresher course trains participants in confined space rescue through classroom instruction, hands-on skills, and scenario-based exercises. Emphasis is placed on hazard recognition, regulatory compliance, specialized equipment use, rescuer safety, and patient care, and it meets NFPA and OSHA standards while preparing students for optional Levels I/II technician certification.*
- *10 students/Big Cajun II*



Fire Officer II - February 23-27

- *This Fire Officer II course meets NFPA 1021 standards and provides training in company operations and fire department administration, including human resources, budgeting, inspections, and emergency service delivery. Prerequisites include Fire Officer I and Fire Instructor I certification and a passed skills assessment.*
- *25 students representing 4 departments*



Common Passenger Vehicle Awareness - Feb. 24

- *The Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Awareness course equips students to assess vehicle-incident scenes, identify needed resources, and recognize associated hazards to establish proper isolation and safety measures. Participants learn essential PPE use, common rescue equipment, and key ground-support functions for operations- and technician-level activities. The course also covers basic patient-triage considerations and how to effectively assist technical rescue teams during vehicle stabilization and extrication.*
- *15 students representing 7 departments*

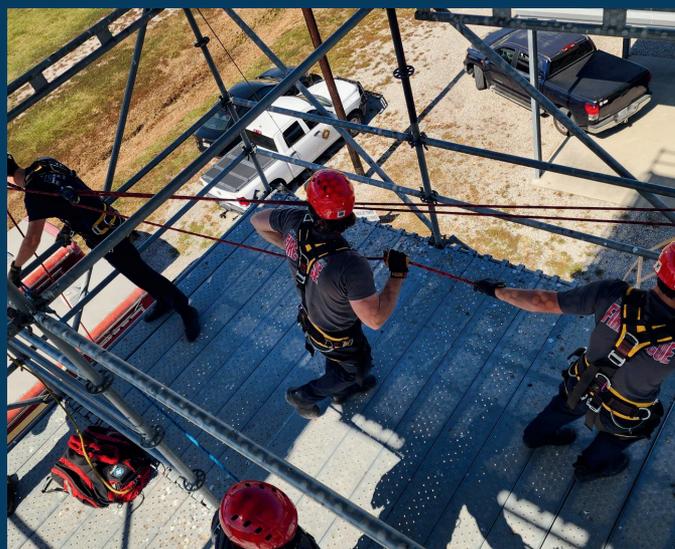
On Deck...

APRIL

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Awareness
April 2 | FETA Baton Rouge

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Operations
April 22-24 | FETA Baton Rouge

Fire Officer IV
April 27 - May 1 | FETA Baton Rouge



Instructor Insight

- **Name:** Thomas Townsend
- **Time with FETA:** Since 2004
- **Department:** FETA Rescue Instructor



Thomas Townsend began his fire service career in 2002 with the Baton Rouge Fire Department. Two years later, he joined the Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy, then known as the Fire & Emergency Training Institute, as a part-time instructor, expanding his impact beyond the fireground and into the classroom. In 2022, he became a fulltime instructor at FETA when he retired from the Baton Rouge Fire Department.

Rescue is Townsend's specialty. From 2008 to 2018, he served as Task Force Leader for Louisiana Task Force II, leading deployments to major disasters across the Southeast United States, including Hurricane Florence in South Carolina. At the academy, he teaches confined space, rope, vehicle, trench, and structural collapse rescue.

"I enjoy passing on my knowledge and skills to others," Townsend said. "We have to prepare the next generation of rescuers. Some students aren't fully engaged when they arrive, but by the end of the day, they're invested, confident, and mastering the techniques we teach."



FEATURED COURSE

- **Course Title:** Fire Officer IV
- **Course Details:** This course prepares fire officers for executive-level leadership in accordance with NFPA 1021 standards. Topics include multi-agency emergency response, personnel and resource management, budgeting, and risk analysis. Students will complete graded group projects as part of the curriculum.
- **Course Dates:** April 27 - May 1, 2026/FETA Baton Rouge

2026 Training Opportunities

Recruit Academy

January 12 & August 3 | FETA Baton Rouge

Instructor I

July 13 | FETA Baton Rouge

Instructor II

August 3 | FETA Baton Rouge

Instructor III

September 14 | FETA Baton Rouge

Live Fire Instructor

December 7 | FETA Pine Country

Live Fire Instructor-in-Charge

December 9 | FETA Pine Country

Fire Officer I

July 27 | FETA Pine Country

Fire Officer II

August 17 | FETA Pine Country

Fire Officer III

March 16 | FETA Baton Rouge

September 21 | FETA Pine Country

Fire Officer IV

April 27 | FETA Baton Rouge

October 19 | FETA Pine Country

Incident Safety Officer

June 22 | FETA Baton Rouge

Fire Investigator

March 23 | FETA Baton Rouge

July 13 | FETA Pine Country

Driver/Operator – Pumper

June 15 | FETA Pine Country

Driver/Operator – Mobile Water Supply

June 24 | FETA Pine Country

Rope Rescue Awareness

August 12 | FETA Pine Country

Rope Rescue Operations

August 24 | FETA Pine Country

Rope Rescue Technician

September 8 | FETA Pine Country

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Awareness

April 2 | FETA Baton Rouge

October 28 | FETA Pine Country

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Operations

April 22 | FETA Baton Rouge

November 17 | FETA Pine Country

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Technician

June 2 | FETA Baton Rouge

December 1 | FETA Pine Country

Common Passenger Vehicle Awareness

September 16 | FETA Pine Country

Common Passenger Vehicle Operations

September 28 | FETA Pine Country

Common Passenger Vehicle Technician

March 30 | FETA Baton Rouge

October 13 | FETA Pine Country

Register Now in ACADIS

Learn Fire Service Best Practices with the National Fire Academy (NFA)

Take advantage of NFA's training opportunities to enhance your knowledge and skills in the fire service. These courses bring nationally recognized instruction right here to Louisiana.

To secure these valuable training sessions, **we must have at least 20 students registered no later than 45 days before the course start date.** This is a requirement set by NFA to avoid course cancellations. It allows NFA time to book travel for its instructors.

Register early to ensure the course can proceed as planned.

Good news: Registration will remain open until the first day of class—but don't wait! Early registration helps us keep these opportunities available to everyone in the Louisiana fire service community.



**National
Fire
Academy**
Courses



NFA TRAINING

F0647 - Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking

April 22-23, 2026

West Monroe, LA @ Ouachita Parish FD

F0455 Strategy & Tactics for Initial Company Operations

May 19-20, 2026

Broussard, LA @ Broussard FD

F0610 - Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer

July 9-10, 2026

Breaux Bridge, LA @ St. Martin Parish Fire Training Center

F0770 Fire Investigation : First Responders

Sept. 16-17, 2026

West Monroe, LA, @ Ouachita Parish FD

Register Now in ACADIS

Recruit Round Up

FETA Recruit Academy 190

FETA Recruit Academy 190 has officially reached the midpoint of its 18-week program. The academy kicked off on January 12, 2026, and is set to wrap up with a graduation ceremony on May 1, 2026.

This class is made up of recruits representing nine Louisiana fire departments: Bogalusa, Central, DeSoto Parish, Hahnville, Morgan City, New Iberia, Opelousas, St. Tammany, and West Baton Rouge. As they move through the academy, the recruits are immersed in demanding physical drills and comprehensive classroom instruction designed to equip them for the challenges of a career in the fire service.

With a strong focus on practical skills, accountability, and teamwork, the program ensures each recruit is prepared to operate safely and effectively during emergency responses. When they graduate, these future firefighters will return to their respective departments ready to protect their communities and make a meaningful difference.



Next Academy...

- Class 191
- Aug. - Nov. 2026
- Register in ACADIS

Tools of the Training

Fire Vent Auto-X Extrication Simulator

The Fire Vent Auto-X Extrication Simulator is an entry-level training prop designed to build fundamental vehicle extrication skills in a safe, controlled setting. It allows firefighters to gain high-repetition, hands-on experience with hydraulic tools, saws, and stabilization equipment while practicing door forcing, hinge cutting, post removal, dash displacement, and victim extrication techniques.

Designed for predictable, repeatable outcomes, including simulated electric vehicle components, the Auto-X supports both conventional and modified scenarios. While not a replacement for live vehicle training, it complements it as part of FETA's regional prop fleet, expanding safe, accessible, and skill-focused training opportunities for emergency responders. The Fire Vent Auto-X Extrication Simulator was secured with a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant.



On-Site Training Offerings

Firefighter Training Classes

- First 5 Minutes
- Scene Size-Up, Strategies and Tactics
- Smoke Reading
- Fire Ground Simulations
- Basic Fire Ground Search and Rescue
- Thermal Imaging
- Rapid Intervention Team Concepts
- Firefighter Survival Training
- Mayday
- Flashover
- Car Fire
- Modern Fire Attack: Incumbent Firefighters
- Live Fire Training Evolutions
- Multi-Story Attack
- Forcible Entry Practical
- When Hydraulics Go Down (Vehicle Extrication)
- Introduction to Elevator Technology
- New Vehicle Design Awareness
- Max Fire Box
- Flammable Liquids and Gases (FLAG)
- Firefighter Safety and Photovoltaic Systems
- Grain Bin Awareness
- Traffic Incident Management: Responder Safety on the Roadway
- SCBA Refresher

Driver/Operator Classes

- Water and Water Supply
- The Fire Pump
- Mathematics of the Driver/Operator
- Performing Check-Out and Maintenance
- Driving
- Emergency Vehicle Driving
- Fire Ground Operations
- Drafting and Water Shuttle Operations
- Relay Pump Operations
- Foam
- Aerial Device Operations
- Fire Service Communications

FETA on the Geaux



Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills, 5th Edition

- The Fire Service
- Evolution of the Fire Service
- Firefighter Health and Safety
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Firefighter Rehabilitation
- Fire Service Communication
- Firefighter Tools and Equipment
- Ropes and Knots
- Fire Behavior
- Building Construction
- Portable Fire Extinguisher
- Ladders
- Forcible Entry
- Search and Rescue
- Ventilation
- Water Supply Systems
- Fire Hose, Appliances, and Nozzles
- Supply Line and Attack Line Evolutions
- Fire Suppression
- Advanced Fire Suppression
- Firefighter Survival
- Salvage and Overhaul
- Wildland and Ground Fires
- Vehicle Rescue Extrication
- Assisting Special Rescue Teams
- Fire Detection, Suppression, and Smoke Control Systems
- Fire and Life Safety Initiatives
- Fire Origin and Cause
- Establishing and Transferring Command

STAY CONNECTED

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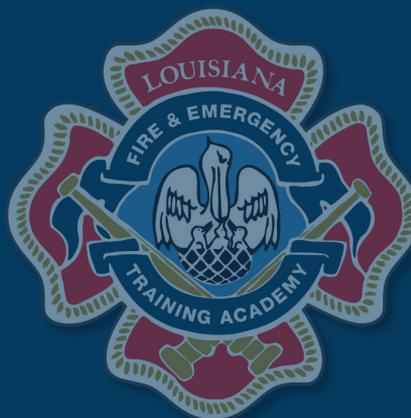
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Mission

The mission of the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy is to train, certify and support emergency responders to safely perform basic and advanced skills through the delivery of high-quality, relevant and accredited training curriculum developed to meet the needs of the ever-changing Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical industries.

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Course Evaluation



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